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'NO POLITICAL PRISONERS,' VIDELA TELLS CHURCH

FY122045Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 11 Apr 78 p 9 FY

[Text] The Argentine episcopate yesterday received a three-page report from President Jorge Rafael Videla in reply to church queries expressed in a letter sent to the president by the archbishop of Cordoba, Cardinal Raul Primatesta, late last month.

President Videla delivered the letter during a luncheon held at government house and attended by Cardinal Primatesta, president of the episcopate, and episcopate Vice Presidents Monsignor Vicente Zazpe and Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu.

The meeting, which lasted over two hours, was held in utmost secrecy and the churchmen declined to make any statements when they left government house.

The text of Cardinal Primatesta's letter to Videla was never divulged, but reliable sources said the bishops had expressed their concern over people who have disappeared and who have not figured in lists of people held at the disposal of the executive power, which are periodically released by the government.

President Videla is reported to have said in his reply that there are no "political prisoners" in the country, and only subversive delinquents and people guilty of economic crimes are being held. With regard to the imprisonment of Catholic priests--also mentioned by Cardinal Primatesta in his letter--the president is reported to have said that the government does not consider the imprisoned priests to be true priests, as they were being held for subversive activities.

The official report, turning to the question of missing persons, said the government could not assume responsibility for incidents caused by subversion in order to bring the Argentine process in to disrepute. All cases of missing persons are being investigated, the report said.

The churchmen, while appreciating the difficulties faced by security forces and accepting the president's explanation that there had been some "excesses" in the fight against subversion, are reported to have insisted that the government had--so far as was known--taken no measure to deal with these "excesses."

The churchmen said that they felt it was their duty to demand an explanation from the authorities to incidents which so clearly clashed with the doctrine of the Catholic Church.

STATE OF SIEGE LEGAL VIOLATIONS CRITICIZED

FY130111Y Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Apr 78 p 6 FY

[Editorial: "The Powers of the State of Siege"]

[Text] Article No 23 of the constitution says that a state of siege can be imposed "in case of domestic uprising or foreign attack which threatens the exercise of this constitution and of the powers created by it...suspending...constitutional rights." If there is no foreign attack, establishment of a state of siege and the powers it confers are therefore only justified by a domestic uprising.

As Joaquin V. Gonzalez [not further identified] states, an uprising, subversion, or plot against the government can consist of the general tone of voice used by constituents, but also "of any disruption or violent unrest which poses an imminent threat to peace and public or institutional order." From this we can deduce, as the details of the statute confirm, that the unrest referred to is that manifested through the collective demonstration of a group or a crowd, of a political faction or party. Disorders or threats which can be interpreted as a sign of a disturbance to justify enforcement of the exceptional measures authorized under the state of siege cannot be isolated or individual. And furthermore, it must be of an unquestionably social or political nature. This explanation is necessary because of the incorrect enforcement of the law and the powers which it grants in cases which obviously did not fall within the legal definition.

It is very common now for the executive branch to detain individuals who carry out despicable acts which in many cases are crimes or infractions of various kinds provided for and punishable under the law, but which must be investigated and punished by the common courts. With evident lack of concern, the executive branch has invoked the exceptional powers granted by the state of siege to detain persons and transfer them to another part of the country if they do not want to leave Argentine territory. It has detained alleged perpetrators of so-called "economic crimes," despite judicial intervention and orders for their release issued by appropriate summary proceedings.

Similar procedures have been followed in cases of smuggling, corruption and drug trafficking. It is also regrettable that journalists have been detained with insufficient legal proof and charged with participation in subversive activities or well-known deals or scandals. These journalists are not detained by order of a competent judge but at the disposition of the executive branch.

There is no doubt--in view of what has been stated--that this deprivation of freedom for those who were jailed was instigated on a moral basis and was inspired by the need to defend society. But this cannot hide the violation of the law and constitutional guarantees instituted not only to protect the innocent but also the guilty, who must be judged and sentenced by judges and not the executive branch, as is written into Articles 23 and 95 of the constitution.

A few days ago, referring to the second anniversary of the process for national reorganization, we indicated the need to return as soon as possible to the unrestricted application of the principle of legality, due to the fact that subversion has been beaten through the self-sacrificing action of the armed forces and security organizations. It cannot be denied that, no matter what importance is placed on the new and varied forms which criminal activity has assumed in our time, no value must be preserved more carefully than that of legal order, without which civilized coexistence becomes impossible. On the other hand, what we maintain agrees with what is written into the objectives of the process for national reorganization: "the full enforcement of legal and social order."

We must point out as especially harmful the violations of press freedom which we have reported on appropriate occasions. This freedom is specially guaranteed by Articles 14 and 32 of the constitution and it is the basis for other rights. Its functioning is a right which the people have reserved for themselves and which none of the branches of the state can regulate or restrict.

The irregularities in the use of power which have been outlined must be added to the conduct of provincial governors, who have also assumed powers based on the state of siege. As we recalled at the time, this is prohibited by the constitution, as definitely established during the controversy between Rawson and Sarmiento in 1863.

Therefore, only the national executive branch can exercise the powers written into the state of siege, which was considered by the governors of Corrientes and Cordoba provinces when they closed newspapers in their respective jurisdictions, thus implementing something which not even the national government itself could do. Now the governor of Corrientes Province has had a citizen detained for making a charge which he believes unfounded and slanderous, although he is only authorized to demand that the courts try and sentence the citizen. Under no circumstances can he jail him without trial.

Cases such as this must stop. If it is considered that existing regulations do not punish actions or activities which should be punished, the law must be changed, but not violated--that rejects the constitution, which is the supreme and basic law.

LABOR MINISTER TO ATTEND NONALINED, ILO MEETINGS

FY121648Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1215 GMT 12 Apr 78 FY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 12 Apr--Labor Minister Horacio Tomas Liendo will go to Tunis to participate in the meeting of the "Group of 77" nonalined and other countries which will be held toward the end of this month. Before returning to Buenos Aires he will probably make a stopover in Europe to attend the meeting of the ILO Administrative Council in Geneva in May.

Each of the trips has a separate aim. It was learned in diplomatic circles that the purpose of the first is to consolidate Argentine presence in a group which has unanimously supported this country at international meetings during debates on the use of shared natural wealth and the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands.

In the second case, the minister's presence at the ILO Administrative Council meeting in Geneva is related to the debate in this organization on questions which are directly linked to the labor union situation in Argentina and the impact of that subject on the image of the country abroad.

LEADERS OF FIVE PARTIES MEET WITH BALBIN

FY110230Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2115 GMT 10 Apr 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Apr--Leaders of several political groups met this afternoon with Ricardo Balbin, president of the executive committee of the Radical Civic Union, in what one of them called "just a protocol visit without any political connotation."

The meeting was held at the veteran radical leader's office at 800 Rivadavia Street in Buenos Aires. It was attended by members of the Peronist Party, the Communist Party of Argentina [PCA], the Popular Socialist Party [PSP], the Unified Socialist Party [PSU] and the Argentine People's Union [UDELPA].

According to rumors, the meeting was to have been held on 4 April in La Plata, and it was said at that time that it was motivated by Ricardo Balbin's recent operation.

Among those present at Balbin's office today were Peronists Angel Federico Robledo, Roberto Ares, Miguel Unamuno, Manuel Torres, Vicente Solano Lima; Fernando Nadra and Ruben Isgaro, of the PCA; Victor Garcia Costa, of the PSP; Simon Alberto Lazara, of the PSU; and Alberto Molina Zavalia, of UDELPA.

SETTLEMENTS PLANNED ALONG CHILEAN BORDER

PY121358Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1145 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 12 Apr--Gen Victor Gonzalez, chief of the joint armed forces staff, has announced that the Bolivian Armed Forces will organize settlements along the border with Chile. He also said that military garrisons will be stationed on the border and that the road network will be improved to facilitate settlements in that area.

BANZER-PINOCHET CORRESPONDENCE RELEASED

PY121826Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Apr 78 pp 10, 17 PY

[Text of letters exchanged between Presidents Augusto Pinochet Ugarte and Hugo Banzer Suarez from November 1977 to March 1978]

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 23 November 1977

Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the Republic of Bolivia, La Paz.

Mr President:

On the various occasions when we have met, I have told you of the priority I assign to our relations with your country and the decision I have made to seek means of cooperation which will promote the mutual interests of our two nations.

The present state of relations between Chile and Bolivia makes it advisable to confirm those intentions of cooperation and to state that we have a responsibility to search for specific means which will make that cooperation meaningful.

My government is aware of the special importance, within the framework of our relations, of the negotiations which are going on for the purpose of giving Bolivia a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

My government has not altered the political will which inspired those negotiations and is willing to promote them according to the wishes of Your Excellency and at the pace you believe to be advisable.

During the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, our foreign ministers agreed to appoint special representatives to expedite the negotiations. My government is also ready to cooperate toward speeding up the action of the special representatives of our two countries, if Your Excellency believes this to be appropriate and useful.

At the present stage of the negotiations I believe that it would be advisable to make an appriasal of what has been done, to precisely state the problems which should be overcome and to suggest future actions. The special representatives could be useful toward this end.

Having recognized the importance of these negotiations, it seems necessary to me to point out the possibilities of cooperation which exist in other fields.

At present relations between our two countries can be substantially improved if we dedicate ourselves to seeking means of augmenting our economic relations, of encouraging cultural, scientific and technological cooperation, of overcoming transitory problems, of developing and improving our communications systems and of making the rules of free transit, agreed upon by our two nations in favor of Bolivia, more flexible.

I am convinced that a lasting achievement suiting mutual interests can be reached, if our governments apply themselves with determination to search for the ways and means of making such cooperation possible.

I take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of my very highest esteem.

[signed] Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, general of the army, president of the Republic of Chile

Banzer's Reply

La Paz, 21 December 1977

Your Excellency Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, president of the Republic of Chile, Santiago, Chile.

Your Excellency:

I have read with great care your cordial letter dated 23 November 1977.

Since our meeting in Charana, which I attended persuaded by the patriotic duty which every Bolivian has to make every possible effort to achieve a solution to the landlocked situation affecting his country, it has been a norm of conduct on my part to express to Your Excellency, with absolute sincerity, the concerns of my government regarding the negotiating process in its different stages.

The state of the negotiations undertaken to end the landlocked situation of Bolivia compels us to reflect seriously. In order to accurately assess future prospects, I believe it is essential to briefly review what has taken place since August 1975. Only after making this analysis will we be able to determine the practical effects of the political will which Your Excellency claims to have to promote the important diplomatic negotiations in which Bolivia is involved.

As part of a plan of harmonious coexistence, of integration and shared development, my government proposed in August 1975 the start of negotiations to obtain a sovereign strip of land having geographical contiguity [with Bolivia] north of Arica.

As Your Excellency is aware, other conditions were also required which would make access through the strip the minimum solution that could be accepted for Bolivia's landlocked situation and which would become within the grand scheme another tool which would guarantee Bolivia an adequate rate of social and economic development. It is obvious that within this context the extension of Bolivian territory to the seacoast and the complete sovereignty which Bolivia must exercise in the territory which is subject to diplomatic negotiations was an imperative issue.

Your Excellency's government formally answered the Bolivian proposal on 19 December 1975 by conditioning an eventual agreement to factors which hindered the negotiating process "from the beginning." Through the Bolivian and Chilean documents, nevertheless, general terms were established which provided an overall basis upon which possible progress could be achieved in search for similar views which would promote an agreement based on reciprocal benefits and meet a heightened sense of international justice.

The subsequent stage corresponded to the consultation submitted by the Chilean Government to the Peruvian Government regarding the transference to Bolivia of a sovereign territory north of Arica, in accordance with Article No 1 of the additional protocol of the treaty of Lima of 1929.

The Peruvian Government took approximately 11 months to answer this consultation. During this period, what specifically could have been negotiated with Chile that would not have been subject to the Peruvian answer? Are we not aware that any territorial exchange in this area must necessarily have the consent of Peru?

Finally, the Peruvian Government issued in November 1976 its points of view regarding the consultation submitted by the Chilean Government.

Your government, Mr President, limited itself to rejecting the Peruvian proposal, arguing that it involved matters which fell exclusively within Chilean sovereignty. Bolivia, nevertheless, hoped that Chile would start other negotiations to clarify this issue which is the basis of enabling the Chilean Government to deliver the territory that is the specific and judicial object of the negotiations.

There can be an endless abstract argument on this subject, but we are facing political decisions which are directly involved with Bolivia's vital need to regain its Pacific coast and fulfill the expectations of the Bolivian people, which cannot be postponed any longer.

Convinced that international justice must be the solid basis for achieving a truly peaceful coexistence in the South Pacific, I proposed to Your Excellency on 24 December 1976, through the Bolivian ambassador in Santiago, criteria and principles which I believe were appropriate to reaffirm and remind because they correspond to basic definitions adopted by my government:

"1. We ratify our original proposal of peace, development and integration which will enable a solution to Bolivia's landlocked situation through a free and fully sovereign outlet leading from our national territory to the Pacific Ocean.

"2. To achieve a solution upholding international justice, fraternal cooperation, and complete solidarity, it is proposed that the Chilean Government modify its proposal by discarding the condition regarding a territorial exchange. Furthermore, it is proposed that the Peruvian Government modify its proposal regarding the establishment of a territorial area under shared sovereignty.

"3. The Bolivian Government offers, in exchange, an agreement containing the original proposal of August 1975, an equitable contribution for the establishment in the coastal area of a large tripartite development zone which would be transferred to Bolivian sovereignty but from which reciprocal benefits would be derived for Bolivia, Chile and Peru."

I appreciate your determination to expedite the present stage of negotiations, which may be achieved through the appointment of special representatives as was agreed by our foreign ministers in New York City.

I wonder, nevertheless: What will be the truly important objectives discussed during this meeting? Would not an evaluation of everything that has been carried out make us acknowledge the same obstacles we are confronting today? I repeat that new factors must be included in our negotiations to be able to overcome the present stage; factors which must be imbued with a larger spirit regarding the conditions which are demanded for an agreement which may be unanimously accepted by my fatherland.

The establishment of new conditions which are required to continue those negotiations leading to the achievement of the objective we established in the Charana meeting is not in Bolivia's hands.

Only under these new circumstances will the meeting of the special representatives have any meaning; these conditions will determine the pace and intensity of the negotiations.

Otherwise, I fear that, despite our good intentions, we will enter another dilatory stage, something which I do not wish my people to experience since for 90 years they have been awaiting the unified action of nations which must seek just and stable understandings owing to their vicinity.

Awaiting a prompt answer, I convey my greetings to Your Excellency. [Signed] General Hugo Banzer, president of Bolivia

Santiago, Chile, 18 January 1978

Your Excellency, Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the Republic of Bolivia, La Paz

Your Excellency and esteemed friend Mr President:

In a personal letter addressed to Your Excellency on 23 November 1977, in addition to stating the priority which I give to the strengthening of friendly relations with Bolivia, I reiterated my government's intention to expedite the negotiations now underway to fulfill that brother country's aspirations for obtaining a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

On that occasion, I consulted with Your Excellency regarding the advisability of promoting, for that objective, the intervention of special representatives of our countries, as agreed 2 months earlier in New York by the respective foreign ministers. The first objective would be to evaluate the progress to date, to specify the problems to be overcome and to suggest future actions.

Finally, I insisted on the possibility of strengthening the ties between our two nations in various fields of international cooperation.

I received your polite answer, dated 21 December 1977, at the end of the same month.

In order to establish the real prospects of the negotiations which we have undertaken, Your Excellency considered it appropriate to make a brief review of events starting with August 1975, when the Government of Bolivia presented its guidelines to initiate them.

Since, in referring to the clear and precise Chilean proposal dated 19 September 1975, Your Excellency mentions "factors which hindered the negotiating process" at the beginning, I consider it opportune to recall that the said proposal was accepted in general terms and without objections by Bolivia, as stated in the official note from your ambassador in Santiago.

Your Excellency also points out that the Government of Peru "took approximately 11 months" before answering the consultation made by Chile in observance of the protocol annex to the Lima Treaty of 1929 and asks "what specifically could have been negotiated with Chile that would not have been subject to the Peruvian answer?"

With respect to this, it is opportune to recall that during the indicated lapse of time, two rounds of negotiations were held in Lima and Santiago, expressly designed to clear up some important points which Peru wished to know in detail; and that, in addition, our two governments continued the negotiations in the meantime on certain aspects on the basis of Chilean proposals. During this same period, there was certainly no lack of contacts between the governments of La Paz and Lima.

An accusation against Chile, which I deem necessary to dispel, would seem to be implied in a paragraph of your letter: Chile had decided to decline consideration of the proposal made by Peru in November 1976 without, as Bolivia expected, undertaking subsequent negotiations. It is true that my government discarded that proposal, because it felt that it interfered in issues unrelated to the consultation and connected with its sovereignty. If it did not undertake subsequent negotiations, neither was it aware of any initiative from Bolivia with respect to this, nor did it receive any suggestion from your government to undertake such an action. However, the negotiations did not enter into a deadlock then. Proof of this are the trips which the Bolivian minister of foreign relations made to Lima and Santiago in June 1977; the meetings which we had with Your Excellency in Washington the following September; and the meeting among the ministers of foreign relations of Bolivia, Chile and Peru in New York during September of the same year. During all of these meetings it was agreed that the negotiations would continue.

Your Excellency should also recall the stand you took during your message to the Bolivian nation on 24 December 1976, of which I was advised only hours earlier by the ambassador in Santiago, to whom I stated my government's position very clearly.

Finally, Your Excellency should consider my intention to expedite the negotiations designed to grant Bolivia a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean through the designation of special representatives, as agreed to last September. In addition to expressing doubts about the results which those representatives could attain, you felt that it was "not in Bolivia's hands" to establish new conditions to allow negotiations to continue.

In my government's opinion, the proposals made by Chile and accepted in general terms by Bolivia are the only feasible and realistic means to allow the fulfillment of our brother country's goals. We could not, therefore, propose another alternative. However, I am certain that it would be possible to reach an agreement and to obtain Peru's acceptance on the basis of those proposals. I base this belief on the statements made by the minister of foreign relations of the friendly brother country, who stated that the proposals of November 1976 "are not necessarily a formula for final solution, but an alternative, a subject for discussion."

Therefore, I continue to believe that in order to avoid a deadlock in the negotiations, the designation of special representatives, as was agreed to only 4 months ago, would be beneficial. To me it is evident that, if they evaluate the points of agreement and disagreement and suggest future actions to our governments, the negotiations will progress. It is not a "dilatory stage" as Your Excellency seems to think, but a way to avoid a deadlock in the dialog.

The negotiations which we have undertaken are not easy. They will demand mutual patience and good will. We were well aware of this when we began.

The importance of the results will surely compensate for the time we spend clearing up unknown factors and difficulties inherent in diplomatic negotiations of this magnitude.

I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency the President, my esteemed friend, the assurances of my highest consideration.

I am pleased to convey my greetings to Your Excellency. [Signed] Gen Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, president of the Republic of Chile.

La Paz, 17 March 1978

Gen Augusto Pinochet Duarte, president of the Republic of Chile, Santiago, Chile

Mr President:

It falls upon me to answer your letter of 18 January under circumstances which, despite my best intentions, end the dialog which we decided to renew on 8 February 1975, under such seemingly auspicious signs.

Until very few days ago many clarifications were still lacking. Since they were indispensable in order to be able to enter a new stage of the bilateral dialog--that of the special representatives, agreed upon in September last year--I made an effort to obtain them and took the measure of sending a confidential envoy to Santiago.

Unfortunately, the doubts we tried to resolve through that step have in fact been resolved, but in a totally negative way that was wholly contrary to my deepest wishes. During the talk which Ambassador Vargas held as confidential envoy with the Chilean foreign minister, the outcome of which he personally reported to me in the last few days, concepts were clarified and fears were confirmed which had been dimly felt all along in recent years, despite the persistent efforts of our diplomacy.

I have asked myself on more than one occasion why it has not been possible, despite the optimistic statements by Your Excellency, to overcome problems and make progress in future actions. I am convinced that this is possible only when there is a firm, clearly expressed and fully determined political will to reach an objective, above all when this has an international scope, and when there is the indispensable spirit of agreement between the committed sovereign parties.

My confidential envoy brought very discouraging news which confirmed the concerns which I transmitted quite frankly to Your Excellency in my letter of 21 December last year. Among other, smaller things, I learned with surprise that Foreign Minister Carvajal had stated to Ambassador Vargas that his government had not made and did not believe that it should make any effort to seek the preliminary agreement from Peru which is stipulated in the Chilean-Peruvian protocol of 1929; and that all the conditions for granting us a sovereign outlet to the sea north of Arica, given in the reply of 19 December 1975, particularly the condition referring to territorial exchange, remained unchanged and would not be subject to subsequent negotiation.

Although such a rigid position would convert the Chilean proposal from a basis for conciliatory opinions into an nonnegotiable "diktat," I still ask myself: How can I promote new talks, without being guilty of deceiving my people with dilatory and useless measures?

The clarifications we have obtained have thus served to shed light on a painfully negative picture. They show us, once and for all, that the Chilean Government has abandoned the spirit which guided the Charana meeting and, in doing so, destroyed the essential basis of the dialog which we renewed 3 years ago, in the best faith on my part.

Therefore, the only road left to my government is that of severing diplomatic relations with the government presided over by Your Excellency, as Foreign Minister Adriazola is today notifying your representative. We Bolivians must maintain this position, until Chile reaches the understanding that it will reap no benefits by keeping an indefinite stranglehold on a whole people who, despite any adversity, will reach the Pacific Ocean someday. We are encouraged by the hope that the day will come, not only because Chile will reexamine its position, which has so far been rigid, but also because we have the support of international concensus for our just cause and because my people, being of a noble and peaceful inclination, have the virtue of becoming greater with the growth of difficulties.

Yours truly, [signed] Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the Republic of Bolivia

GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AGREE TO U.S. SALE OF TIN

PY130336Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Bolivia has told the International Tin Council [ITC] that it will not agree to the United States sale of its tin.

In his speech to the ITC today in London, Mines and Metallurgy Minister Gen Ernesto Camacho Hurtado said that Bolivia does not and will not agree to the sale of tin by the U.S. General Services Administration.

He indicated that the strategic reserves were stockpiled by the United States for war purposes and not for sale on the world market. Therefore they must be frozen or restricted as reserves.

He repeated that it is Bolivia's intention to seek modification of the minimum price scale which was proposed during the meeting held in January 1978.

General Camacho also recommended that the ITC adopt a system of periodic consultations in order to revise the price scale, this being the only way to permit and ensure price stability.

He asked for the understanding of the consumer nations in order to avoid the critical situation which the producing countries might experience.

He indicated that the heavy slump in the price of tin was caused because the United States made known its intention of selling its strategic reserves.

He concluded by repeating that Bolivia does not and will not agree to the sale of tin by the United States.

PRESIDENT GEISEL TO DETERMINE GUBERNATORIAL SUCCESSION

PY130248Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 12 Apr 78 p 2 PY

["Castello's Column" by Carlos Castello Branco: "Delfim Is Again Heading the List"]

[Excerpt] Brasilia--A new development must have changed the course of the Sao Paulo State gubernatorial succession. This must have been the visit Delfim Neto made to President Geisel accompanied by Humberto Barreto [former president of the Federal Economic Fund] who announced Delfim's candidacy for governor of Sao Paulo State just as he announced earlier--following a similar method--General Figueiredo's candidacy for the presidency. This meeting was designed to dispel every remaining doubt and, consequently, the former finance minister has now replaced Olavo Setubal as the leading candidate for governor of Sao Paulo State. As is known, Governor Paulo Egydio will accept anyone but Laudo Natel, whose candidacy was never supported by President Geisel either.

This development shows that--because of the nature of the regime and the president's decision to use his powers fully until the very end of his term--President Geisel will decide the gubernatorial successions. Just as in the meetings of the Economic Development Council, both General Figueiredo and each state governor will be able to express opinions, but it will be the president who will make the final decision and everyone else will have to agree with him. Perhaps Francelino Pereira [National Renewal Alliance national president] will have the role of announcing the names of the new governors. Governor Aureliano Chaves [Minas Gerais State governor and Figueiredo's running mate] did not seem to be realistic when he said that the new governors will be appointed by General Figueiredo, "but the future president will listen to President Geisel." This statement must be reversed, as Planalto press secretary Ludwig has done by announcing that the gubernatorial successions were already being considered at Planalto Palace, adding that the president of the republic had canceled his trips to Bahia and Pernambuco states "to devote his full attention to this matter."

STATUS ON NAMING OF GOVERNORS REPORTED

PY120338Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Apr 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Brasilia--President Geisel held a 2-hour meeting yesterday with Governor Paulo Egydio [Sao Paulo State] at the Riacho Fundo farm, at which it became clear that a decision on the Sao Paulo State gubernatorial succession will only be made in the next few days at a meeting between the president and General Figueiredo.

Paulo Egydio arrived in Riacho Fundo at 1030 and talked with Geisel until 1230. The meeting was also attended by General Moraes Rego, chief of the military household. Paulo Egydio reportedly expressed his concern over the possible appointment of Laudo Natel as his successor, since this would discredit his government.

Paulo Egydio had lunch with the Geisel family, General Moraes Rego and Humberto Barreto, former president of the Federal Economic Fund.

A high-level National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] spokesman has reported that the following have already been appointed as governors: Nei Braga, Parana State; Marco Maciel, Pernambuco State; Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, Bahia State; Virgilio Tavora, Ceara State; Lucidio Portela, Piaui State; Augusto Franco, Sergipe State; and Eurico Rezende, Espirito Santo State.

Among the candidates who can virtually be considered as governors are: Jose Lindoso, Amazon State; Amaral de Souza, Rio Grande do Sul State; Frederico Soares Campos, Mato Grosso State; Daniel Cunha, Goias State; Jorge Bornhausen, Santa Catarina State; and Guilherme Palmeira, Alagoas State.

Senator Jarbas Passarinho was considered appointed for governor of Para State, but since he publicly stated that he will not be the governor, the list of candidates now includes Senator Catete Pinheiro and Deputy Alacid Nunes.

The situation was also completely reversed in Paraiba State, where Deputy Antonio Mariz was nominated through an agreement reached by former Governors Joao Agripino and Ernani Satyro. Mariz now seems to have less of a chance than Senator Milton Cabral.

A similar case took place in Rio Grande do Norte State, where Dix Huit Rosado was essentially considered as appointed, byt the opposition of Governor Tarcisio Maia has markedly undermined his chances and has enhanced those of Lavoisier Maia, cousin of the governor.

There are only two main candidates for the governorship of Minas Gerais State: ARENA President Francelino Pereira and Secretary Bias Fortes.

ARENA President Francelino Pereira has been called to Planalto Palace to attend a meeting with President Geisel and General Figueiredo tomorrow at 1630 to initiate the second stage of the gubernatorial succession in the state--the stage of decisions.

This information was released yesterday by a high-level ARENA source. In accordance with the ARENA timetable, governors, a congressmen and regional leaders were involved in the evaluation of the prevailing trends in their respective states until the eve of ARENA's national convention.

MDB SENATORS WALK OUT TO PROTEST REZENDE REMARKS

PYJ30304Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] Brasilia--The MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] bloc walked out of the plenary [Senate] session yesterday following an exchange of harsh words between government leader Eurico Rezende and opposition leader Paulo Brossard. Rezende took the floor immediately after a speech made by Brossard in which the latter analyzed the economic aspects of President Geisel's message to Congress. Rezende charged Brossard with being "a subversive who practices systematic opposition" and who thus lacks the authority to criticize President Ernesto Geisel.

Senator Amaral Peixoto [MDB--Rio de Janeiro State], who was chairing the session, had to suspend it when Rezende charged Brossard with having called ARENA [national Renewal Alliance] members "a gang." Without asking permission to interrupt the speaker, Brossard vehemently protested: "It is not true." Other MDB senators became upset when Rezende did not let them speak. The session was resumed only when Senator Petronio Portella hastily entered the plenary session room to chair the session and asked Rezende "to keep calm."

Portella's appeal was useless, since Rezende resumed his speech by asking that the time which was "stolen" from him by Brossard be considered. At this point the MDB members decided that they did not want to continue listening to him and walked out of the room. Later, MDB senators headed by Brossard went to Portella's office to demand stricter control of the language used in plenary sessions.

Portella, who vowed to take appropriate measures, regarded this incident as "extremely serious." He said: "A crescendo is building which could reach terrible porportions."

MAGALHAES PINTO CONSIDERS FIGUEIREDO SPEECH POSITIVE

PY111511Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 10 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Text] Senator Magalhaes Pinto (Minas Gerais, ARENA--National Renewal Alliance) indicated that the first official statement of ARENA's presidential candidate was "positive" but added that Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo's speech "is contradictory on certain issues because, although he speaks of the independence between the three government branches, he points out that his nomination was made through the revolutionary method."

Magalhaes Pinto, who read a copy of the speech which was delivered to his home in Rio de Janeiro by a journalist last night, refused to comment any further because he felt that he had to analyze in depth the speech of the chief of the National Intelligence Service (SNI). Without showing either resentment or bitterness, Magalhaes Pinto calmly restricted himself to wishing the general well.

He said: "I hope that our ideals will be in harmony and that our struggles will be aimed at the same objectives."

The senator added that "although I am not ARENA's candidate, I consider myself a candidate for the nation. I have supported the revolution to protect the country from the chaos which was coming, and I would like to see the country implementing democracy for all of its citizens." He said that he had expected that ARENA's national convention would end the way it did, and added that he had left the delegates who supported him free to vote for the official candidate.

FIGUEIREDO-MAGALHAES PINTO RECONCILIATION VIEWED

PY121726Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Apr 78 p 2 PY

[By Walder de Goes]

[Text] Brasilia--In addition to the selection of governors and senators through indirect channels, the government is now leaning toward an effort to suppress the dissident factions represented by the independent candidacy of Senator Magalhaes Pinto. The senator's political movement is considered by the Planalto Palace to be a disturbing factor which could weaken ARENA's [National Renewal Alliance] chances in the November elections and, consequently, endanger the efforts toward normalization of the country's political life.

The idea of reaching an understanding with Senator Magalhaes Pinto, so that he would withdraw his candidacy and rejoin ARENA, is ripening in the Planalto Palace--especially in Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo's office. For some time now, preliminary consultations have been made concerning the possibility of a meeting between the civilian candidate and President Geisel or General Figueiredo. Nonetheless, the negotiations were suspended in view of the harshness of the speech in which Senator Magalhaes Pinto denounced the ARENA convention and announced his decision not to contend for the delegates' votes.

The first consultations were made by Senate President Petronio Portella immediately after the launching of General Figueiredo's candidacy by President Geisel. At that time, they hoped that Senator Magalhaes Pinto would request an audience with President Geisel, with the initial guarantee that he would announce the withdrawal of his candidacy upon leaving the president's office.

Magalhaes Pinto did not accept the proposal, which he considered "a game with marked cards," according to what he disclosed at the time.

After a few weeks, the consultations were resumed with intermediaries. Mutual friends of General Figueiredo and Senator Magalhaes Pinto called on the civilian candidate and proposed more unbiased talks. However, the proposal had to be postponed because of the priority given to the preparations for ARENA's national convention, which would confirm the presidential candidacy of the National Intelligence Service chief.

Apart from the convention, the issue arose again last Saturday and Sunday and, in General Figueiredo's opinion, the moment for more unbiased negotiations had arrived. The general's political advisers were persuaded that Senator Magalhaes Pinto's movement grouping dissident factions was capable of strengthening the remaining reservations about the official candidacy. Moreover, while advancing in its role of activating the nation's repressed civic sensibilities, the Minas Gerais senator's candidacy could affect ARENA's electoral outcome not only in Minas Gerais, but in the entire country.

Meanwhile, the idea of negotiating the suppression of dissidents constitutes the central strategic element with which the government intends to stabilize the Figueiredo candidacy starting now and to create conditions so that, with the aid of ARENA's favorable electoral results, the future federal administration could firmly establish itself through a program of political reforms. The government is profoundly convinced that the stability of the Figueiredo candidacy and administration depends on a political base which can only be created through a program of reforms. It is understood that such a reform program would be greatly impaired in the event that the results of the November elections are unfavorable for ARENA.

Therefore, the negotiations with Senator Magalhaes Pinto have this deeper meaning. During the last few days, politicians linked to the Figueiredo candidacy expressed the opinion that the dissident leader is open to compromise and reconciliation, while bearing in mind the help which his withdrawal would contribute toward political normalization. According to advisers, the senator is ready to negotiate and will not avoid an encounter with Geisel or Figueiredo. He would only require that his interlocutor be prepared for any outcome which might result from the talks.

Magalhaes Pinto, anticipating the risks implied by a conversation with Geisel or Figueiredo, understands--as do the advisers to the official candidate--that previous agreements could take place, either to draw up the encounter's agenda or to establish the prerequisites in order to diminish the risks. The Minas Gerais senator does not have any personal demands to make as a condition for withdrawal of his candidacy, and is ready to reach compromises on the basis of the public interests which he has been defending.

Nonetheless, it is rumored in official government circles that government succession in Minas Gerais, to be decided by President Geisel and General Figueiredo, will be the last to be definitely decided, bearing in mind its possible value in the negotiations with Magalhaes Pinto. The Minas Gerais Government would not be entrusted to someone indicated by the senator, nor would the senator pay the price of withdrawing his presidential candidacy in order to insure the appointment of his choice for the succession of Aureliano Chaves.

FIGUEIREDO IRRITATED OVER HANDLING OF PERSONAL INTERVIEW

PY111419Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Apr 78 p 3 PY

[Excerpts] Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo will hardly grant any new interview to the press now, at least not under the same conditions as the one published recently with question-and-answer format. The main reason for this is the problem caused by the general's mentioning Senator Paulo Brossard, a reference which, according to persons close to the general, was not interpreted correctly by the press.

According to friends of the National Intelligence Service (SNI) chief, Figueiredo mentioned Brossard's case without bothering to locate the documents proving Brossard's actions. The intention of the general was merely to show that even the opposition would react in a certain manner to enforce the law if it were in power.

According to the same sources, it was not General Figueiredo's desire to accuse Brossard or to prove any charges against the senator. The sources explained that it was too much to ask the general to remember offhand whether the event involved a specific news medium.

Figueiredo, who was expecting the final text of the interview to be brought to him before publication, was very irritated with what had happened. From now on, he will not grant any more interviews on the terms he had granted the last one. This, however, does not mean that there will be no interviews with the press. In the future General Figueiredo will establish his own conditions, such as having written questions as well as written answers.

DEPUTIES COMMENT ON FIGUEIREDO INTERVIEWS

PY101958Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Apr 78 PY

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] Deputy Antonio Carlos Rosa Flores [Rio Grande do Sul, Brazilian Democratic Movement--MDB] stated today that the interviews recently granted by Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo show that the candidate for president of the nation has no idea of the problems of the Brazilian people. Rosa Flores added that Figueiredo's remarks about the economy and its political implications do not seem to be correct. He also said that General Figueiredo's concept of agrarian reform is highly inappropriate because, according to Rosa Flores, the idea is not to merely change the mentality of the peasant but to carry out an effective and broad agrarian reform.

Rosa Flores refuted the concept of democracy presented by the presidential candidate and concluded by stating that on the basis of the widely disseminated reports of these interviews it is now possible to have a clear idea of what kind of person the next president of the nation is.

Lucas Coelho Joao Gilberto [Rio Grande do Sul, MDB] indicated that the government must concentrate on reviewing official policies in order to encourage agricultural development rather than on making both unfair and unpleasant statements.

This position was echoed by Gamaliel Galvao [Parana, MDB] who said that people with the boldness, intelligence, civic fervor and capacity for working such as the people of Rio Grande do Sul cannot remain (?indifferent) to the offensive and humiliating nature of these remarks.

In turn, Aldo Fagundes [Rio de Grande do Sul, MDB] repudiated General Figueiredo's remarks on the grounds that they constituted an unnecessary offense against a state which is helping to build the greatness of the fatherland.

Octacilio Queiroz [Paraiba, MDB] indicated that General Figueriredo's remark that the northeasterner cannot vote because he knows nothing about hygiene showed deep-rooted and offensive materialism.

In response to this Jose Wilson Siqueira Campos [Goias, National Renewal Alliance] expressed his confidence in General Figueiredo by saying that his remarks confirm that he is a revolutionary and a democrat.

Genival Tourinho [Minas Gerais, MDB] and [name indistinct] of the MDB also criticized Genral Figueriredo's remarks and stated that he was not prepared to be president.

Antonio Carlos de Oliveira [Mato Grosso, MDB] stated that the inflexibility of persons in power precluded the return of a state of law. According to Oliveira, this inflexibility is clearly shown in the interviews granted by Geneal Figuiredo and in which the general's successor states that there will be no dialog with the opposition on the basis proposed by the MDB, namely, on the abolition of AI-5, Law 477, and other demands.

Antonio Carlos de Oliveira stated that he does not believe in the relaxation because the government refuses to talk about basic matters and discusses only peripheral issues.

He indicated that General Figueiredo had in fact admitted that the current regime is not good when he said that a victory for the opposition would "blow everything up and would give rise to a regime much worse than the current one."

According to the deputy, the attitude of the future president shows signs of radicalism, and radicalism is not the best way for a statesman to lead the country.

After calling upon the armed forces to guarantee the elections in November, Antonio Carlos de Oliveira stated that if the poorer and less enlightened sectors of the people do not vote, the government will be unable to be fair in its treatment of the variety of problems stemming from a society which has so many different classes.

JORNAL NOTES 'PERPLEXITY' AT FIGUERIREDO'S IDEAS

PY072227Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 6 Apr 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "Perplexity"]

[Text] JORNAL DO BRASIL makes public its downright perplexity over the content of the interview granted to FOLHA DE SAO PAULO by Gen Joao Baptista de Figueriredo, official candidate for the nation's presidency.

The general's frankness and courage in defending his opinions in the dialog with the two journalists can be apprecated, but his formal opinions raise disturbing questions.

Some of the main thoughts General Figueiredo expressed at different points during the interview are worrisome, for instance his misconception of the workings of a democratic society, which reveals a questionable understanding of the country's situation.

The general believes that "liberalism is dead." Foregoing a sideline discussion on the evolution of liberal thinking, it must be said that a discussion on the future of liberalism in Brazil is not essential, but a discussion on the revival of public liberties is. The notion of these liberties which the general revealed is that for him they depend on the generosity of the state. So he believes that the state, besieged by enemies, is the kingpin of society and grants liberties as permitted to insure its security. This notion excludes from a political program the idea of society and fails to see that the state can only be properly organized on the basis of principles, not on the basis of security mechanisms. This is so because security is anchored in principles, and if these principles are lacking, not only are the ethics necessary for organization of a nation lacking, but nothing is really secured.

The example of the organization of neolithic tribes given by the general is ambiguous. All the states which came into being between the 10th and 4th centures before Christ disappeared, whether they were democratic, theocratic or militarist. From all of them, however, mankind inherited Greek thought above all, not the savage war ethics of the Assyrians or the worship of Osiris. The Greeks were the only ones to adopt an organization in which society was put before the state.

The notion of independence or dependence of government branches presented by General Figueiredo is deceiving. A characteristic in the existence of the executive, legislative and judicial branches is exactly the possibility that any of them may enter into the jurisdiction of the others. If it were not so, we would have three governments, not three branches of government. In Brazil today, for instance, the three branches exist only in a public square in Brasilia bearing that name. As for government, it exists only in the executive branch, which General Figueriredo--judging from his interview--believes is entitled for revolutionary reasons to prevail over the other two branches.

Forgetting the fact that the revolution was staged on behalf of democracy, the general is amiss in his recollections when he states "we won it." In the first place, there are many who participated in the revolution for democracy's sake and walked away when they saw the revolution taking a personal tack. In the second place, half of the Brazilian population today is composed of people who neither won nor lost the revolution, for the simple reason that they were children when the time to straighten things out came in 1964.

The general cited, with different degrees of inaccuracy, three examples of political organizations in the world. According to him, the French regime is not democratic. This is a debatable opinion, because a month has not yet passed since the French people participated in general elections of a kind which Brazilians would like to have. In another example, General Figueiredo seems to have misunderstood the function of the House of Lords, confusing it with a republican senate. In a third example, after saying that he favors indirect elections for president, he talked about the possibility of using in Brazil a system like the U.S. indirect system, as he sees it. But the system for election of the U.S. president is based on a prorated vote of electoral colleges, and that is undoubtedly a direct system.

The general argues in his interview that the people do not know how to vote. This is an old-fashioned argument which so far has not come up with a better procedure to teach people how to vote other than letting people go to the polls. Furthermore, if the people do not know how to vote, the question can be raised whether those who believe they know how can demonstrate that they do indeed.

To highlight the most important point of the interview, the general said: "The MDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement] has gone radical.... If the MDB wins, in addition to this thing about the constituent assembly, well... the military is not ready for it. This is when things will blow up. Either I blow up with it, or I join forces with them and we move toward a regime which will be much worse than this one."

In fact, there are plenty of reasons to fear that explosions may occur and that once they subside we may end up with a regime worse than the one we have. One thing must be understood right now: Civilian society does not intend to explode anything. Moreover, if the MDB wins the elections in November, its victory will reveal the position of an electorate which will go to the polls at the request of people who judge it incapable of making choices for some positions, but capable of electing the Chamber of Deputies. Should that be the case, the victory should merit respect in the name of civilization, the nation's constitution and basic principles of order.

With its expanding economy and its demonstrated maturity, Brazil has grown beyond the adolescence typical of South American republics--and it has done so thanks to efforts by officers, businessmen, politicians and public administrators.

For several reasons, the sincerity with which General Figueiredo exposed his political ideas is to be commended. For some important reasons, only a few people were not seized by perplexity at the presidential candidate's declarations.

Contrary to the general's incorrect idea about the function of the press, public opinion does exist. It is not fabricated. And that public opinion, exercising a constitutional provision, will go to the polls on 15 November keeping in mind the political opinions of both the National Renewal Alliance and General Figueiredo.

FIGUEIREDO TO BE TRANSFERRED TO RESERVES

PY111513Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The decree transferring Gen Joao Figueredo to the reserves is already in the official press office for publication. The information was given by General Figueiredo himself, saying that President Geisel had acted on his request to leave active duty as soon as the pertinent decree was officially published.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT TO VISIT 22-26 MAY

PY050345Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes will make an official visit to Brazil from 22 to 26 May in response to General Ernesto Geisel's invitation. This was confirmed by Itamaraty yesterday. During the almost 2 months prior to Eanes' visit, the Brazilian and Portuguese foreign ministries will draw up the agenda of the two presidents' talks, whose main subject of discussion will be Brazil's influence in former Portuguese colonies in Africa.

CABINET RESIGNS TO GIVE PINOCHET 'FREE HAND'

PY130033Y Santiago Chile Radio Agricultura in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Apr 78 PY

[Text] The entire cabinet submitted its resignation to President Pinochet this afternoon. The president immediately accepted the resignations of the interior and defense ministers. At the same time he named current Attorney General Sergio Fernandez Fernandez interior minister and current Interior Minister Gen Cesar Benavides as defense minister. Gen Hermann Brady, who up to the present had been defense minister, has been named defense adviser to the presidency with the rank of minister. Both Fernandez and Benavides were sworn in during a ceremony in the Blue Room of the Diego Portales Building.

The other ministers will remain in their posts until Minister Fernandez, on the president's instructions, submits a list of names for a new cabinet to President Pinochet. This must be done within 48 hours.

The information was released by Minister Secretary General of Government Gen Rene Vidal, who indicated that in view of the high political significance of President Pinochet's 5 April speech and the fact that during the course of the year the draft of the new constitution will be made known and the new [words indistinct]. The ministers met this afternoon, with the interior minister presiding, and agreed to give the chief of state a free hand for the implementation of these objectives, which are very important politically.

Installation of New Ministers

PY130124Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2320 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Text] At exactly 1845 we went to the first floor of the Diego Portales Building to report on the swearing-in ceremony which was, naturally, headed by the president, who was accompanied by government officials and several reporters. Let us listen to the words of the president:

[begin Pinochet recording] [words indistinct] I have taken this opportunity to name Sergio Fernandez as the new interior minister in order to achieve greater civilian participation in the government and at the same time recommend [words indistinct] toward a new institutionality.

The interior minister will also have the task of drawing up specific plans to achieve this objective. In view of this change in the cabinet I want to express my recognition of former Interior Minister Gen Raul Benavides for his effective, loyal and complete dedication to the president [words indistinct]. I am sure that Gen Raul Benavides, whom I am appointing as the new national defense minister, will continue to carry out his duties in the same manner.

I also want to particularly thank Gen Hermann Brady, who was until today defense minister and is now the presidential adviser on national defense, for his expressions [words indistinct]. General Brady has been a comrade of arms for many years. We were together on 11 September, working and preparing [words indistinct]. I have words of praise for him.

The new interior minister will also have the task of submitting, within 48 hours, the names of the new cabinet he is going to head, so that the new ministers can be appointed next Friday. I wish you all good night. [end Pinochet speech]

[Unidentified voice] Decree No 309, issued in Santiago on 12 April 1978.

In view of this background, and taking into account the provisions of Article 72, Section 5, of the national constitution and Decree Laws 1 and 128 of 1973 and 527, 788 and 806 of 1974;

It is hereby decreed:

1. As of this date, the resignations of Maj Gen Raul Benavides Escobar as interior minister and of Maj Gen Hermann Brady as national defense minister are accepted;

2. As of this date, Sergio Fernandez Fernandez and Maj Gen Raul Benavdes Escobar are appointed interior minister and national defense minister, respectively;

3. It is so ordered.

[signed] Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, president of the republic; Raul Benavides Escobar, interior minister [end recording]

GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO CONTINUE LETELIER PROBE

PY121354Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago--A government spokesman has stated that the investigation into the falsification of passports regarding the Letelier case will continue until completion. The same source noted that the (?judge) involved is free to deal with the case and therefore wants to clear it up completely.

Judge (Hector Donosco) is in charge of the proceedings on the falsification of passports which derived from the U.S. court request and which was ordered by military court judge Enrique Morel.

TODMAN 'REMOVAL' SEEN AS VICTORY FOR 'RADICALS'

PY122100Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 12 Apr--The resignation of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Terence Todman caused special comment in the press today.

Todman had visited Chile in August 1977 to investigate the human rights situation.

In its main editorial the government daily EL CRONISTA says that Todman's advice on human rights policy was unappreciated by President Carter's advisers. His resignation after 15 months in his post is considered by EL CRONISTA to be a victory for those in the Department of State who seek "severe treatment of our nation."

EL MERCURIO also discusses Todman's resignation in its editorial. EL MERCURIO says that "Todman held a balanced position regarding the Chilean situation." The newspaper also claims that "a group of young radicals installed in the Department of State" is responsible for his removal.

JUNTA TO RELEASE STATEMENT ON BEAGLE TALKS

PY122154Y Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 12 Apr 78 p 1 PY

[Text] According to reports from Chile, the Chilean Government junta has approved the various issues to be covered in a statement regarding the Beagle Channel which has not yet been publicly released.

An announcement from the military junta regarding the act signed in Buenos Aires last Friday by Argentine-Chilean mixed commission No 1, aimed at achieving conditions of equity and harmony in the southern border conflict, is expected this week.

This is the end of the first stage of negotiations on solution of the border conflict. Mixed commission No 2 is now waiting for a date to start the tough negotiations which will have to be completed within 180 days. It has already been reported that Brig Gen Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo will preside over [Chile's delegation to] the new commission.

PINOCHET ADDRESSES FIRST NATIONAL MEETING OF MAYORS

PY130143Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Excerpts] During the opening ceremony of the first national meeting of mayors, President Augusto Pinochet announced increased resources for municipalities so that they can achieve the objectives of well-being, work and education at the community level.

The president was the only speaker at the opening ceremony. He first mentioned the advantages of the present law of municipalities, which was approved on 26 November 1975.

[begin Pinochet recording] A communal organization of a purely technical nature has been implemented to serve the individual. I believe that we can firmly state that the municipalities have been incorporated into the administrative organization of the state, overcoming the destructive effect of the struggles for local power which occurred in the past. There is no room for transitory political majorities and all the associated hatred and mean arrangements. Mayors are appointed by the executive branch and municipalities are guided by the higher inspiration of national interests. At the community level, a mayor is the representative of the president. [end recording]

The president devoted the second part of his speech to telling the mayors about the country's progress on the basis of the new institutionalization.

[begin Pinochet recording] Chile is moving toward a new institutional reorganization. The road to be followed by our political process to achieve consolidation of the system through properly functioning institutions has been designed and laid down. The established goals will thus be maintained. The enemies of Chile will not move us to change the chosen path. Only the interests of the country moved us to make a decision in this regard. Personal or political ambitions have had no room in this plan. [end recording]

General Pinochet added that, as president, it was his responsibility to promote studies and consultations regarding the new constitution based on findings on the needs of the country. But, he warned, the original goals which must be achieved prior to implementation of the new institutions and the various stages are, and will continue to be, unchangeable in essence. President Pinochet concluded by encouraging the mayors to continue working indefatigably for the future and prosperity of the country.

[begin Pinochet recording] An opportune and proper awareness of reality at all levels of expression is an irreplaceable factor in national recovery. You are mainly responsible for becoming aware of and appraising this reality, passing it to the other levels of the internal system and searching, imaginatively and creatively, for the most appropriate solutions. And this task, I want to emphasize, can be accomplished with the participation of the local communities expressed through organizations for integration.

Only in this way will it be possible to continue maintaining that Chile has correctly chosen its path and is marching with a firm step toward its own achievements. [end recording]

BRIEFS

1978 SURPLUS EXPECTED--Economy Minister Pablo Baraona stated that the authorization issued to import color television sets is an economy measure since it will result in balancing the balance of payments. He explained that a surplus of approximately $250 million is expected in 1978. Exports have increased by 19 percent and imports by 8 percent. He said that this may have a negative effect in the process of curbing inflation, since when exports surpass imports the dollars which enter the country must be absorbed by the issuance of money, which causes inflation. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY]

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PA121509Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Oscar Montes has arrived on an official visit to Ecuador. The distinguished visitor will discuss with his Ecuadorean counterpart the outlook for technical assistance agreements, especially in the field of [word indistinct] energy and nuclear energy. Upon his arrival in Quito Vice Adm Oscar Montes said: Today I begin this greatly desired visit to your country with great hope, convinced that the subjects we will discuss and the agreements we will reach will serve to confirm once again in the eyes of Latin America and the world the spirit of the indestructible fraternal ties that unite us.

For his part, Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Jose Ayala Lasso expressed in the name of the Ecuadorean Government and people his great satisfaction at being able to cordially welcome the Argentine foreign minister. He said that the talks that preceded this visit and the similarity of principles which characterize the policies of Ecuador and Argentina guarantee that the Argentine foreign minister's visit to Quito will be fruitful in terms of both bilateral relations and better understanding on the continent.

QUITO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SAY AGITATION TO CONTINUE

PA121920Y Quito La Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Quito branch of the Federation of Ecuadorean University Students [FEUE] summarizing this morning's events in Quito and the orders it has given to its members, pointed out:

[begin recording--unidentified speaker] This morning in various neighborhoods in Quito, particularly in the southern sector, there have been new incidents. In one of them, a student named Garcia, a member of the provincial leadership of the FESE [expansion unknown], was arrested.

In the neighborhoods the people are still radically opposed to the high cost of living. This morning FEUE held a general assembly in the Che Guevara auditorium and instructed students to go to the neighborhoods. The same assembly totally rejected the statements made by government authorities to the effect that they will shoot to kill. We consider that this attitude warrants the people's total rejection.

We have also rejected the threats to close the university that have been voiced by the dictatorship. At this time we demand respect for the legal reorganization process in the country.'

For tomorrow, we are mobilizing the student struggle in support of the 1-hour strike to be staged at noon by workers of the province. In addition, the people are being told at rallies that today at 1800, and every day so long as this situation persists, mothers and housewives are to go to the windows, doors, porches and in front of their houses to beat pots and pans. This will take place in Quito every day at 1800, when the sound of the empty pots will be heard. [end recording]

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED IN AREA OF COPPER TRADE

PY121522Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 78 PY

[Communique No 8 issued by public relations office of Interior Ministry in Lima on 11 March]

[Text] The Interior Ministry informs the citizenry that the revolutionary government of the armed forces had decreed a state of emergency and suspended individual guarantees in the district of Ilo, Moquegua Department. This measure has been ordered as a result of the strike which the employees union of the Southern Peru Copper Corporation, the labor union of the Southern Peru Copper Corporation and the ILO Metalworkers Union have been holding since 27 March 1978. This strike is affecting the economy of the country. The huge losses which this strike is causing every day--at a time when serious economic and financial difficulties are being experienced--are hindering the implementation of economic recovery programs devised by the government to offset the difficult economic situation.

COMMUNIST LABOR LEADER ARRESTED AT AIRPORT

PA112215Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 11 Apr (AFP)--Isidoro Gamarra, president of the General Confederation of Workers of Peru, was prevented from traveling abroad this morning. Gamarra was on his way to Prague to attend the World Labor Federation's Ninth Congress when he was arrested by airport police.

A police official said that the labor leader and Communist Party candidate to the constituent assembly is wanted by the military courts for his participation in the general strike last 19 July.

The four other labor leaders accompanying him left for Prague unhindered.

CGTP ANNOUNCES NEW ANTIGOVERNMENT MEASURES

PA102159Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1950 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (AFP)--The communist General Confederation of Workers of Peru [CGTP] today announced various actions to obtain a full labor amnesty, job stability, the reinstatement of workers who were fired and who are now on a hunger strike, and increases in salaries and wages. The measures were agreed upon by the largest Peruvian confederation during a national assembly of delegates held over the weekend. The measures include a unitary march on 13 April, according to an appeal made in that respect jointly with the Christian Democratic National Confederation of Workers [CNT] and the National Agrarian Confederation [CNA]. The CNA was created by the government and claims to have 3 million peasants among its members.

It was also agreed to support a joint labor assembly which the CNT has been promoting, to hold a joint rally on 1 May, and to intensify the actions directed at the abolition of a decree which "annuls job stability, is against the labor organizations and represses the struggle for the recovery of the rights of the working class." The law, which was enacted recently, establishes a series of causes which call for the dismissal of workers and imposes punishment for businessmen who do not fulfill their obligations. It was issued in order to "promote production and harmony in the work centers."

CHILEAN ARMY OFFICER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

PA102246Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1505 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 10 Apr (AFP)--Chilean Army Deputy Chief Gen Carlos Forestier, who arrived last night for an official 8-day visit, will be received today by President Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, it was announced here today. The high Chilean officer, who was especially invited by Gen Oscar Molina, war minister and army commanding general, was received last night by Gen Pedro Richter, chief of the armed forces joint command and army chief of staff, and other top officers.

General Forestier and his retinue will go on a tour tomorrow, Tuesday, to the main cities in the southern part of the country. They will visit Ayacucho, Cusco and Arequipa during the special program prepared by the country's military authorities. General Forestier will meet the ministers of the navy and the air force when he returns from the tour. "I am glad to be in the country of our Peruvian brothers and I am sure that this visit will strengthen our fraternal and friendly ties which were established many years ago."

The other members of the Chilean delegation are Gen Santiago Sinclair, army operations director; Col Roberto Guillard, the military academy director; and Maj Javier Salazar, Forestier's aide.

President Receives Pinochet Note

PY111551Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Apr 78 PY

[Text] Peruvian President Francisco Morales Bermudez received a personal letter from Chilean President Augusto Pinochet via Chilean Army Deputy Chief Gen Carlos Forestier, who has arrived here for an official visit. In the meeting held yesterday General Morales Bermudez thanked the Chilean envoy and expressed his wishes for a continuing strengthening of Chilean-Peruvian friendship. During the meeting the Chilean envoy and the Peruvian president discussed the Ayacucho declaration, which is aimed at lessening tensions in the hemisphere.

FORMER GUERRILLA LEADER HUGO BLANCO RETURNS

PA130347 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 12 Apr (LATIN)--Hugo Blanco, former Peruvian guerrilla leader who was deported by the Peruvian Government 2 years ago, has returned to this capital. Blanco, 45, is the third important personality to return to the country since the government of President Francisco Morales Bermudez decreed a general amnesty for political prisoners on 16 March as part of a plan to insure a peaceful and free electoral process.

STATE-OWNED OIL AGENCY SIGNS DRILLING CONTRACTS

PA052247Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1211 GMT 5 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 5 Apr (EFE)--The state-owned agency Peruvian Oils on Tuesday signed contracts for the drilling of new oil wells in the Peruvian jungle and for secondary recovery operations in already existing wells in the northwestern part of the country. One contract was signed with the American company Occidental Petroleum, which received the rights to 1 million hectares located next to the area that it is already exploiting in the Amazon region of Peru. The other contract was signed with the company Occidental Peruana and the Argentine company Bridas Exploraciones y Produccion S.A., which will invest another $150 million.

NATIONAL UNITY FRONT CANDIDATE DISCUSSES POLICY

PA062005Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Dr Alejandro Gomez Silva has described the proclamation of his candidacy in Tachira State as a tribute to Marcos Perez Jimenez. Gomez, presidential candidate of the National Unity Front--FUN--told this to our chief of information, Jose Campos Suarez.

[Begin Gomez recording] Frankly, my candidacy will be proclaimed in Tachira State mainly as a tribute that we, Perez Jimenez' true followers, pay to our top exiled leader, Gen Marcos Perez Jimenez.

As everyone knows, General Perez Jimenez was born in the town of Michelena, Tachira State. As a matter of fact, the date of my proclamation will coincide with General Perez Jimenez' birthday. This is the main reason why my candidacy will be proclaimed in Tachira State, in the town of Michelena. [end recording]

Our reporter asked the FUN leader about the innovations he plans to offer the Venezuelan voters during the current campaign:

[begin Gomez recording] I am introducing many innovations. I am different than the other candidates in the race. For instance, I will form a government with all capable Venezuelans. I will not exclude the members of Democratic Action, the Christian Socialist Party or anybody else simply because they do not belong to my party. I shall rule with everyone and for everyone. Furthermore, my government will be of broad national scope in every sense.

As soon as possible, I will energetically undertake the construction of the great national railroad, the dream of all Venezuelans. Venezuela's development is based on that great railroad which the country needs so badly.

I will also create a sea ministry to take advantage of the great marine wealth that has remained unexploited for so many years. Many of the world's countries live off the sea. Japan, the northern countries, the Scandinavian countries and Spain are all countries which receive large amounts of currency from the exploitation of their marine resources. I will do the same because I feel that Venezuela must hasten to look for sources of wealth other than oil and iron. [end recording]

Gomez Silva added that the sea offers us great prospects for development and is basic to my program. Jose Campos Suarez' attention was caught by the FUN candidate's statement about ruling together with all Venezuelans. In this regard, he asked a double-edged question:

[begin recording] [Campos Suarez] Doctor, you have said that you would rule with all Venezuelans. Would you even rule with (Salas) Castillo?

[Gomez] I will rule with all capable and honest citizens. I want you to understand my answer clearly. Since I am sure that the Venezuelan people are an intelligent people, I think that with this response I have told you precisely what I think about that citizen.

That is not a Perez Jimenezist party [as heard]. That party has betrayed Perez Jimenez; it has taken advantage of his image and has grossly traded the votes of the Perez Jimenez movement with the government's party. I do not believe any follower of Perez Jimenez or any sensible man in this country for that matter can consider giving his vote to the National Civic Crusade. [end recording]

Asked if he agrees with the death penalty, Alejandro Gomez Silva said: [begin Gomez recording] That is one question that many politicians do not answer categorically, but I will be categorical like you, Campos Suarez. I am a clear and precise man; I do not mince words or evade answers. I approve of the death penalty for serious crimes, for those crimes that shake the public opinion--cases involving sadism, rape or assassinations that truly make everyone's hair stand on end. I approve of the death penalty in the case of brutal crimes. Nonetheless, I do not believe that the crime problem can be resolved by killing people or opening concentration camps and jails. I think that crime should be fought at its roots. As we all know, crime arised from the existence of underprivileged groups in Venezuela. We have to put an end to underprivileged groups, we have to put an end to unemployment, we have to put an end to slum areas, we have to put an end to starvation, and we have to put an end to idleness if we are to effectively confront crime. I will open sports fields and cultural centers in all populated neighborhoods so that idle youths will not waste their time with drugs and alcohol, but rather will dedicate themselves to something praiseworthy and noble, such as sports and culture. That is what I shall do. [end recording]

MEP CANDIDATE ANNOUNCES POLICY OF NATIONALIZATION

PA081554Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Luis Beltran Prieto Figueroa, presidential candidate of the People's Electoral Movement [MEP], has promised to nationalize energy, banking and insurance enterprises upon becoming president.

Prieto, a teacher, said that this would place the country on the road to full development without posing great difficulties. He added, however, that his policy of nationalization did not encompass the mass communications media.

Prieto Figueroa said that he aspires to the presidency because the country is in a state of crisis. I do not seek the presidency for myself, to become rich, or to enrich others, but rather to place myself at the service of the people, Prieto Figueroa said.

GAR SUPPORTS MOVEMENT TO SOCIALISM CANDIDATE

PA122327Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] The Revolutionary Action Group [GAR] has begun its electoral campaign by announcing its support of Jose Vicente Rangel. (Berto Losada), GAR labor secretary, said that the GAR's political work will be based on specific denunciations of the current administration. The labor leader said that the main points of the campaign will be the defects in such public services as transport, health, education and personal security. He said that the GAR has made official its support of Jose Vicente Rangel, presidential candidate of the Movement to Socialism.

EDITORIAL SCORES TREATY FOES, SEES SOME ENCOURAGING SIGNS

PA1015411Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0305 GMT 10 Apr 78 PA

[Station editorial aired during "special program on the Torrijos-Carter treaty ratification process"]

[Text] In its unjustified opposition to the ratification of the new Panama Canal treaties, a minority in the U.S. Senate has used tactics and subterfuges that mar the international image of the nation which was at one time considered the foremost defender of justice and democracy.

For 13 years and four U.S. administrations, respective presidents have publicly admitted the need for establishing a new dimension in U.S.-Panama Relations based on a new canal agreement in which the elimination of the sources of dissatisfaction was to be guaranteed. These sources of dissatisfaction have been protested by the Panamanians for 75 years.

The intransigence and lack of sense shown by a small congressional group has turned an international agreement, which was neogitated and signed in the presence of 27 sister nations, into the object of domestic petty politics reflecting the selfish ambitions of those seeking reelection and their demagogic attitudes. All of a sudden, it seems as if the most powerful country in the world has adopted a policy of denying others their rights by intimidating and subduing them through force.

When the force of justice is ignored in bilateral relations and one party's rights are not respected--although only by an irresponsible minority--the subjugated ones become aware of the force uniting and guiding them through their struggle for liberation. The problem of the new Panama Canal treaty is not unknown to the United States. Ever since 1904 Panama has been voicing its dissatisfaction over the lamentable list of abuses, impositions, and the unilateral interpretations.

U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said in Panama that the U.S. Government admitted the need for new treaties to eliminate, once and for all, the sources of dissatisfaction between Panama and the United States. The two governments even signed the eight-point Tack-Kissinger declaration.

The behavior of the U.S. Senate minority opposed to the new canal treaty shows the world the irresponsible and dilatory policy of the most powerful nation of the world toward a small nation which arose as a free country under the protection of the nation which today seeks to harm it. The members of the United Nations have ratified the UN Charter. This fact obliges them to fulfill all the clauses of this document which provide for the rights of man and the inviolability of the sovereignty of nations.

The DeConcini reservation is a flagrant violation of and shows disrespect for the UN Charter, which is also the law in the United States. Senator DeConcini is making a mistake by presenting his country, his Senate colleagues, and his President as totalitarians who flout the rest of the world and their own international commitments.

The Panamanian people and government have given evidence of patience and good judgment during the long years of negotiation which culminated in the signing of the treaties in the presence of 27 leaders of the Western Hemisphere.

There does seem to be a ray of light at the end of the tunnel, however. While the U.S. press condemns senators such as DeConcini for treating Panama without any respect or decency, President Carter said in Camp David that the treaties do not give the United States the right to intervene in Panama.

Democratic Senator Frank Church, floor leader of the treaty debates, reported that his colleagues are discussing some type of pronouncement which will clearly establish rejection of any interventionist actions on the part of the United States.

These are encouraging remarks, which--along with General Torrijos' call for the American people's sense of justice and fairness to assure that the Senate will not ask Panama to relinquish its sovereignty and national dignity as a price for ratification--lead us to think there might be a formula that will safeguard the dignity of both nations and, as a result, bring the mutual benefits which the application of these treaties will entail for Panama and the United States rather than the chaos which might result when a nation loses all hope.

CRITICA COLUMNIST VIEWS DECONCINI AMENDMENT RAMIFICATIONS

PA101824Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 10 Apr 78 p 4 PA

["Pisando Callos" column by Alvaro Menendez-Franco: "Between Amendments and Forgetfulness"]

[Text] The country is facing a difficult but not desperate situation. The difficult situation is caused by the fact that a colonialist mentality has reappeared in the U.S. Senate minority opposed to the Torrijos-Carter treaty, a mentality which in fact opposes President J. Carter's decisionmaking power at home and opposes communism, socialism, the Third World and revolution abroad.

As a nation and government, we fall in the latter category. Panama is not a communist country; it is not a socialist country, but it is a revolutionary nation which in the context of spheres of influence and nuclear balance tips the scale in the neocolonialist backyard that is Latin America. Panama's voice at the international forums has made a bitter sound in the ears of the old advocates of the "big stick" and of its new followers. They were accustomed to an obsequious Panama which, as decided by the local oligarchy, used to vote like a poor dog whenever the delegate of the empire raised a finger. That has been a thing of the past since 1968. Now the new colonialists are trying to find the means to neutralize the Panamanian revolution and its international policy.

Many who are now crying out and even those who pathetically call for a people's war against the forces stationed in the Canal Zone forget what happened after 9 January 1964: The Panamanian bourgeoisie was enthusiastic about the break of relations between Panama and the United States, but 3 months later they were on their knees begging for the restoration of those relations because the semicaptive Canal Zone market had been sealed off from them.

If we arbitrarily reject the DeConcini amendment and its legal basis, could the economically dominant class withstand an opening to the markets and countries which are distasteful to all the DeConcinis of this planet? Those who call for a hasty NO to the amendments and reservations without letting the country fashion a strategy and its various tactics presuppose that this negative reply would simply place the country in a situation similar to that of the January aggression and, as in a movie theater, the same scenes and the same theme would be projected on the screen of our history. They forget that this NO would completely change the historical circumstances and would close the doors to negotiations for many years. There are also the "novilleros" of the revolutionary struggle who, asking the professional matadores for an alternative, cry out against the DeConcini amendment, forgetting the 14 military bases which are aimed at us from the Canal Zone in perpetuity.

That is why we say we are trapped between DeConcini and the 14 bases, and an unthinking vote can push the country into situations which, without a shadow of a doubt, the people or even the revolutionary government are not afraid of, but which frighten the groups which find themselves in the economic orbit of the United States.

SUPPORT VOICED FOR 'PARAMILITARY' ACTION AGAINST CANAL ZONE

PA121808Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 12 Apr 78 p 6-A PA

[Open letter to Miguel Montiel from Nataniel Roberto Mendez, dated 10 April 1978 and printed in the "Linea Directa" column]

[Excerpts] Dear Mr Montiel: In your recent article "Dialectic of the Struggle of National Liberation" (MATUTINO, 8 April) you make a series of statements which could hardly be called "dialectical." I agree with your rejection of the so-called "DeConcini reservation" and with your appeal for a new economic policy. Certainly we need a new economic policy in Panama, a revolutionary and radical change of socioeconomic structures which will result in the establishment of a regime based on the social ownership of the means of production and will put an end to class exploitation.

But we need this not because it is a "good idea," but because capitalism, as an economic system, has become a hindrance to the continued existence of man. Capitalism is in crisis. Consequently, I think it absurd to suggest that if the Carter-Torrijos treaties are approved "we may be able to overcome" the country's economic crisis. Not even with all the millions promised Panama in that treaty could the economic crisis be overcome if Panama remained within the capitalist orbit. Why? Simply because those millions would be committed beforehand to banks and other U.S. financial institutions which are strangling the country with their international manipulation of the prices of goods, the dollar and the country's public debt. Moreover, I feel it is rather misleading to propose a socialist economic policy to the present government leadership. The top echelons of the government are increasingly identified with capitalism, not only ideologically but also economically. These sectors, as you know very well, are already active participants in national and international capitalist enterprises, aside from the fact that they have spoken out against socialism several times. Consequently, it is not to them but to the working class and its allies, including the middle ranks of the National Guard officers, that we can propose a socialist revolution.

Neither can we place reservations on our rejection of the DeConcini anenoment nor use legalistic steps to repudiate that maneuver and "preserve what is good" in the treaties.

Instead, it is necessary to speak of a deepening of the struggle for national liberation and an extension of this struggle to all strategic fronts. Namely, we must denounce the U.S. Government's infamous attitude to the world; we must denounce the 1903 treaty and the colonial regime imposed by that treaty to the United Nations and other international organzations; and we must mobilize the Panamanian masses against the colonial Zonian regime. We should support political strikes, demonstrations and marches inside the Canal Zone and outside it; we should support the illegal occupation of territory and installations in the zone and, in the extreme case, we should carry out paramilitary operations at a commando level against military and political objectives in the Canal Zone.

The present government can be pressured to act in this direction, but only to a certain point. To go beyond that point it will be necessary to form a massive political movement and a new government leadership. And to form this movement it will be necessary at the same time to raise the flag of a new economic order, the new revolutionary economic policy which I mentioned previously.

COLUMNIST SEES 'NEW DIMENSION' IN TORRIJOS' SANTIAGO SPEECH

PA122348Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 11 Apr 78 pp 6-A, 8-A PA

["Conciencia Publica" column by Miguel Angel Moreno Gongora: "A Speech With a New Dimension"]

[Text] In his speech at Santiago, Veraguas Province, the chief of government confirmed the often repudiated antidemocratic subordination of the legislative organ to the executive organ when he said: "If after August the present representatives and those who have been elected believe that the constitution must be amended to improve the legislative, administrative and political structures, the executive will not stand on principle on this. Moreover, it will take the initiative." In this paragraph he emphasizes that the executive makes concessions to the legislative organ. It is not the legislators who are resuming functions which they never had and which belongs to them by doctrine and politics under the principle of the separation of powers; it is rather the executive organ, prepotent and paternalistic, which is doling out crumbs little by little.

The above only confirms the ineffectiveness of the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives in the area of legislation and the lack of cause for its existence as an organ of popular power--which is neither powerful nor popular--whose existence is justified only at the regional or local level; that is, only within a limited geographic area.

I will not mention the portions of the speech regarding the fate of the treaties in the Senate, because that subject has been sufficiently and broadly discussed, and all patriotic positions converge on a single path of dignity, which can be no other than absolute rejection of the amendments, reservations, understandings and conditions which the U.S. Senate has introduced to the proposed treaties that were approved by plebiscite in October, 1977. I cannot fail to say that I agree with the Santiago statements to the effect that political and personal interests of any of the forces in the country's life must not be placed over and above the lofty and sacred interests of the fatherland, which are being severely threatened today.

I do not criticize the position of reserve, caution and calm which the government has insisted on maintaining, because--the day after the tragic day of 16 March when the Senate, upon ratifying the neutrality treaty, destroyed the just expectations of respect, peace and dignity which the Panamanian people had placed in the negotiations--I recommended this position to the executive because I considered it to be the most appropriate.

To end this quick and brief comment on the Santiago speech, since the space in my column does not allow for greater detail, I wish to emphasize that I observed in the language used by the chief of government a new, more precise, firm and calm dimension. In that speech there were none of the parabolic expressions or the popular or idiomatic phrases which are often open to varying interpretations and on some occasions distort the truly appropriate posture of the country's top official figure. This change seems to me very healthy because it hints at a return to tolerance and accessibility in the chief of government, which may, at the proper moment, promote the necessary rapprochement among all the combative forces of the country in the search for a fertile and patriotic dialog as a prelude to the national unity which, at heart, we all desire.

OPPOSITION POLITICIANS CRITICIZE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT

PA1121502Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 0321 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Speeches on "political prospects in Panama" at dinner given by Panamanian Association of Business Executives at Hotel Panama on 6 April 1978, broadcast on Mayin Correa's "Edicion Especial" program--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Panamenist Party representative Luis Felipe Clement] We are here today--and why not say it--taking advantage of this beautiful opportunity to speak since, unfortunately, all or almost all means of spoken and written expression are being slowly and gradually closed to those of us who do not agree with the government.

After 9 years of autocratic and dominating government, it is evident that the regime's manifest ineptness, inefficacy and extraordinary irresponsibility have led the nation to a political, economic, moral and spiritual crisis of gigantic proportions. Never before have the Panamanian people felt so much sadness, pain, confusion and deprivation as in the past few years. This crisis has become more acute since 16 March of this year when the U.S. Senate approved the so-called Treaty Concerning the Permanent Neutrality and Operation of the Panama Canal with amendments and reservations which profoundly and rudely injure our status as a free and sovereign nation.

In the plebiscite of 23 October 1977, the Panamenist Party requested a vote against the treaties because they did not meet the Panamanian people's traditional desires. Instead of eliminating the causes of conflict between Panama and the United States, they aggravated present problems and created new conflictive relations by linking our land even more to the dominant interests of the United States. In a short time, developments have shown that we were right. And today we see how our country is almost completely paralyzed as a result of the confusion created in the minds of Panamanians by the conflicting statements made by the regime's top leaders, statements which show them to be hesitant and vacillating, acting as if they have lost their course and do not know what to hang on to.

I think all those present here are experiencing a deep feeling of insecurity about the country's immediate future. But the Panamenist Party has not come here tonight to paint a dark picture of our country; it has come here to offer its generous, selfless, noble and fraternal support for the reconstruction which our nation needs so that it can be guided down the path which will lead it to its historic destiny.

We are at the most serious crossroads our people have faced in their three-quarters of a century of existence, and no Panamanian can call himself a patriot if he is not willing to give the best of himself so that the dark picture we mentioned previously will be transformed as soon as possible into a bright summer day.

It is not the time for weeping, lamenting or selfish recriminations. The fatherland calls on us to meditate profoundly and serenely so that, together, we will find the genuine, democratic road which we should never have lost. But this task permits no personal selfishness, no party ambitions or electoral ambitions. It demands of all Panamanians their best intelligence, work and a large dose of perseverance and honesty. This concept of the nation's situation was the motivation behind the Panamenists' 11 September 1977 open meeting which called for national unity and asked all Panamanians to take up the task of national reconstruction.

In these 9 years of a special kind of government in which legislation has been hastily formulated without prior consultation, behind closed doors, all of the republic's economic and labor sectors have been adversely affected, leading our country's economy to its present deplorable chaos.

The most authorized and responsible spokesmen for private enterprise and labor have been systematically ignored, making it appear that legislation efforts were aimed at pleasing a very small group with very special vested interests.

We believe that there is no country in the world which can afford the continued luxury of throwing into the garbage the work that is the product of its best brains and the ideas of the nation's active forces, such as private enterprise and labor. It is not a secret that our businessmen and industrialists are struggling to survive in an atmosphere in which the rules of the game are changed without prior notice. The majority sectors of our labor force are confused and misled by promises and illusions of conquests which are frustrated in the capricious and senseless interpretations of our code. The briefness of time does not permit us to go more deeply into these important points, but we maintain and assert that it is necessary to have an authentic legislative branch, a genuinely representative one, separate from the other powers of the state, so that this country's laws will be the result of a broad and free debate, in which those who will be affected by those laws will have the opportunity to know them in advance and to conscientiously express their objection or consent.

We maintain that the executive branch must be chosen in free and democratic elections and by the direct vote of the electorate, with the participation of political parties which--whether it is admitted or not--are the best vehicle for channelling the popular will and which, although it may be said that they are not perfect, are very superior to all the innovations which have been imposed upon us in the past few years by government leaders who fear the true expression of the people's will and use these forms precisely to deny the people's will and to perpetuate themselves in power.

We view the judicial branch--which should be the defender of the constitution and the law and the protector of the people's rights--with pain today, since it has become a lapdog anxious to cater to the arbitrariness of the authocratic power.

We consider these points to be important and, more than that, essential, because the present system in our country has failed resoundingly in less than 9 years. Evidence of this is that the self-styled chief of state just a few days ago proposed amendments to the powers of corregimiento representatives and offered as a reward, like candy to kindergarten children, new prerogatives to the assembly in order to awaken in some people ambitions which I would prefer not to describe at this time.

The Panamenist Party once more reiterates its willingness and its desire to contribute, together with all Panamanians, to the termination of this abnormal state of affairs in the country and to reorganize, without selfishness of any kind, a system in which the three branches of government are independent so that each one can fulfill its duties and guarantee liberty, justice, respect for the citizens' dignity and integrity and the effective respect of human rights.

For this reason, on 12 March 1978 at the heroic Villa de los Santos, the Panamenist Party, the national party board, its political committee and the provincial and district boards proclaimed the electoral abstention of all its members and urged the other political parties to follow the same line, conscious that we cannot be accomplices of and much less participants in a political maneuver aimed at depriving Panamanians of their genuine rights as citizens!

These announced elections are, in effect, a proposal that Panamanians be semicitizens. Is this acceptable?

Without wanting to go into detail on a subject so dear to the hearts of noble beings--the subject of human rights--and without desiring to wield sentimental and emotional arguments but simply resorting to reason and right, it cannot be conceived that this country should want to enjoy the cruel luxury of wasting so much talent, keeping so many Panamanians of all social, political and economic classes in an illegal exile.

It is impossible to speak of an improvement in our people's living conditions, their economic, social and political conditions, without the presence and contribution of our fellow citizens who are in exile merely for differing with those who temporarily hold power today.

The time has come for a great national agreement in which all Panamanians, through their parties, associations and groups, should set aside their ambitions and renounce their selfishness. Those national and foreign historians who maintain that national history is made with blood are ignoring the Panamanians' intelligence and creative capacity to surpass the most delicate stage of their history without having to resort to violence, which leaves a trial of pain, tears, orphans and widows.

Panamenism wants Panamanian history to be written without blood, and this can only be done with intelligence, a creative capacity and a spirit of sacrifice on the part of all Panamanians.

This great agreement cannot be made only by one political party or one civic association but by all political parties, all civic and labor associations and all good Panamanians in whose ears continuously resound the lines of our national anthem which call for unity and work without further delay to build the great and generous land of which our forefathers dreamed. [appaluse]

[Independent Democratic Movement President Tomás Herrera] After 10 years of military government, Panama is on the brink of a crisis of such proportions that today's question is what is the medium-term and immediate future of the country. That the question is a recurrent one is proven by the fact that in the midst of an electoral process this organization has considered it necessary and prudent to hold a discussion on the country's political prospects. If we were not experiencing critical times, times in which definitions are being sought, nobody would think of the subject while we are im the middle of a campaign. It is believed that the election makes foreseeable, in one way or another, the nation's political prospects, except for the unforeseeable events which sometimes happen in the history of nations. This truth and no other is the reason for this discussion.

The subject in itself is broad and complex, but the fact that our present government is a government by force, with evident demonstrations of this in the past 10 years--imprisonments, abuse, deportations and in general the systematic suppression of individual rights--years which President Carter has called ones of political stability in referring to a tranquillity and peace like that of a cemetery, may also simplify the analysis, because governments which stay in power by force do not leave of their own accord and willingly.

This means that nothing indicates that the pax Romana will end. Outside government circles and perhaps even within them, there exists a profound conviction that the regime is too inefficient, that the country is experiencing such a critical period that there is need for a change of attitude, system and regime which will renovate the administration of government affairs, permitting the free give and take of the various interests coexisting in this nation.

That is why we think that, instead of speaking about Panama's political prospects, we must think of Panama's prospects in terms of two different political situations: maintenance of the status quo or change.

In the international field, the situation is also on the brink of crisis. Internal economic and fiscal problems and the government's extreme desire for political survival made it adopt a political stand instead of a patriotic stand in regard to the canal treaties. This situation led the government to present to the country treaties whose negotiation was concluded hastily, treaties which were a step backward in comparison to the 1967 draft treaties. This situation also led the government to present to the country onerous treaties, (?abusive) and injurious to the national dignity, treaties which were an insult to the Panamanian people's historic struggle. This situation led the government to present to the Panamanian people treaties which were in contradiction to 7 years of nationalistic declarations made by the government itself. This situation led the government to defend the treaties with an indecorous political campaign, offering the treaties to the nation through a system of propaganda which prevented calm and detailed studies of the contractual terms presented to Panama. This situation led the government to misrepresent the content of the treaties in order to convince the people that the treaties were good when they were not. It is very true that the Panamanian negotiators presented a treaty entirely different from the one the U.S. negotiators said they negotiated with Panama, and in the end, the Panamanian Government had to accept the U.S. interpretation of the treaties, an interpretation which is ignoble for the country. This situation led the government to say that the only solution to the nation's grave situation was Panama's ratification of the treaties because it needed the money. This, by the way, was an admission that the government decided because of its indebtedness to follow a destructive course at any cost, including our dignity, motivated by its desire to obtain with the new contract new loans to finance current expenses. This situation led the government to make the dubious statement that the treaties were the final solution to the country's economic problems, forgetting that the country lived for 60 years with the Hay-Bunau-Varilla treaty and forgetting that during the years of the previous negotiation we attained a growth and development which has permitted the country to subsist in the past few years.

That is why the government presented a distorted image of what the treaties meant for the country, when in fact the treaties were of political significance and importance to the government.

In the administrative-political field the situation is not any better, because inefficiency and improvisation are the characteristics of this administration. Its inefficiency is already being made evident in the press, even though the press is controlled by the government, when it reveals the colossal errors committed in the management of government funds and loans.

The present elections are so politically insignificant that the nation's situation has not been touched upon by the candidates. The present electoral campaign is characterized by astounding inanity and superficiality. This is so because the candidates for [corregimiento] representative, or precandidates, are fully aware of the lack of power of the organization to which they hope to be elected. They cannot offer a change in the country's fiscal structure nor an economic change. This is also why, save for a few exceptions, no important or outstanding national figure has entered the present electoral tourney.

What is most paradoxical, most surprising of all, is that, even though the representatives will have the tremendous responsibility of choosing the president of the republic almost as soon as they are sworn in, not a word is heard throughout the country, not one statement of opinion has been heard from the aspiring candidates regarding how they will vote or for whom they will vote for president. The reason is very simple. They themselves do not even know for whom they will vote. It appears that we have a magic selection whose results are already known to all.

Consequently, we may conclude that this presidential election is only a mockery of the nation's conscience and political needs. Just as in our opinion these elections do not imply a transfer of power, and we all know--especially within the government--that the system assures its continuation and permanence, in the same way we maintain that in Panama there will be no change of political leadership through the force of arms.

We believe this because there is no group prepared for this, and if there were, it would not have the necessary strength for a confrontation with the National Guard.

According to some, there is a possibility that the political change will occur by the will of the National Guard itself. But we can only conclude that any change so produced will be more apparent than real because of the fact that authorized representatives of the National Guard have already given their opinion in this respect and have adopted positions and clear decisions on the matter. They have said that the system of representatives is good and that, if anything, a very slight and small participation must be given to them in matters pertaining to legislation.

A change is necessary. The change in administration must be complete, embracing its name, leadership and direction. This transfer must be made on the basis of a government of national unity with the participation of all representative groups of the converging, coinciding and opposing sectors in the nation.

This government will require the participation of the majority so that it can adopt in the short term the measures needed by the country to overcome the various crises. It will necessarily have to be a transitory government which will present to the people's conscience the need for a structural change. It cannot be a government directed at repeating errors and reviving past structures of domination. Only this kind of government can issue a call for an authentic constituent assembly which will restore the legal balance of powers.

We hope that we are mistaken. We hope that magnanimity wins over ignobility, that selflessness wins over selfishness, that greatness and fear of history's judgment win over pettiness and the contempt of future generations because only in this way can we face today's problem, the country's future relations with the United States. We should all think in terms of our fatherland, seeking the cooperation of the honest men in this country so that, in harmony and concord, we can find the solutions which the times require. [applause]

[Christian Democratic Party Spokesman Ricardo Arias Calderon]: In the name of Panamanian Christian Democracy, I want to thank the Panamanian Association of Business Executives [APEDE] for the invitation to participate in this discussion of Panama's political prospects. This is the first time in 10 long years that I have had the opportunity to speak publicly about what most concerns us Panamanians: the present and future of Panama. For this reason I feel morally obliged to begin with the essentials. Never before in our republican history have the human rights of so many Panamanians been violated for so long and so systematically. The number of persons in prison and in exile and dead for political reasons in the past 10 years of dictatorship surpasses all previous experiences in Panama, at least those since our independence.

I emphasize this with no intention of arousing heated emotions and much less of inciting vengeance. This would be disastrous. I do so because Panama will not have a humane future if all we Panamanians do not commit ourselves to preventing the prolongation or repetition of such violations, if we do not commit ourselves to preventing any man or group of men from giving to themselves the right to repress their fellow citizens in such a manner.

For Panamanian Christian Democracy, the palpable sign of this commitment, that it is possible to have a humane future, is the immediate return to Panama of all Panamanians who want to return and the abrogation of every decree and measure of political repression.

At present Panamanian society oscillates between the defensive apathy of many and the contained aggressiveness of some. The regime's image is a combination of personal charisma and the latent threat of the armed forces.

What we need is a regime which stimulates independent social organizations, which centralizes decisions and which shares common responsibilities.

But there is more: The state's institutional life has disintegrated. We have a constitution which divides the executive branch in two--an impotent administration and an omnipotent leadership; a constitution which subordinates the judicial branch to the executive by the act of making appointments; a constitution which does not call for an independent and representative legislative branch.

But the institutional disintegration does not end here. Apart from a constitution which the regime itself disavows when it deports citizens and forbids political parties, there exists the true structure of power, the National Guard as a bureaucratic organization of the state and as a sort of single political party. This is a distortion, with incalculable consequences for the country, of the professionalism of this military institution. If we want to measure the qualitative seriousness of this situation, let us again attentively read the letter which the Camilo Torres student group recently sent to General Torrijos. And I add that it took courage to write the letter and also to publish it.

Ten years following the establishment of the dictatorship, the same vices and vices even worse than those attributed to traditional politicians in the years before 1968 are attributed to the representatives of this regime.

Ten years of dictatorship have passed so that this could be the perfection that a new generation has created in the Panamanian state. What a tragedy.

In my opinion, there is but one conclusion: The military dictatorship as a permanent form of government has failed in Panama. The leadership of General Torrijos, as the government leaders, has not prevented this failure. The political future of Panama requires an institutional reorientation toward representative democracy.

I will be so bold as to assert that an absolute majority of Panamanians wishes this, and if the government doubts this, this evening I challenge it in my name and undoubtedly in the name of my colleagues to try to hold a free popular consultation on the subject. And if they win, let them govern for 10 more years. [applause]

Panamanian Christian Democracy, as it said today in a communique, considers that the government should say no to what should now be called the Torrijos-Carter-DeConcini-Nunn treaty, and should say so outright and without delay.

If the regime should decide to accept such a treaty, it would have to try to do so without a plebiscite, based on its repressive potential, with a view to keeping itself entrenched in power.

One could then say that we have a dictatorship by the treaties, and for the treaties of the dictatorship. [sentence as heard]

I cannot believe that this would be the decision adopted by General Torrijos and the National Guard. I do not presume that the present government leaders are lacking in intelligence, patriotism or the courage to face adversaries alone. They are Panamanians, like you and I. And as Panamanians we expect them to act, no matter what the eventual repercussions for their regime may be.

If the government were to decide to effectively reject the treaty, to maintain that rejection it would have to face the consequences and create a positive future from that point, it would have to establish a national agreement like the one I mentioned before. The external and the internal dimensions of Panamanian life cannot be separated. In Panama nationalism requires democracy or it is lost, and democracy requires nationalism or it is lost. A national agreement based on nationalistic democracy is the future which our present demands.

CHIRIQUI COUNCIL CALLS FOR SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

PA122022Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 12 Apr 78 pp 1, 18 PA

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez]

[Text] The Chiriqui Provincial Coordination Council yesterday approved a resolution asking the executive branch to call the 505 corregimiento representatives into special session. It also commended to all the provincial coordination councils to support the institutionalization of the office of chief of government so that General Torrijos can fully carry out his government work.

CRITICA interviewed Carlos Calzadilla, secretary general of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, upon his return from David. He said: By virtue of its legal powers and the presence of the highest provincial authorities, the Chiriqui Provincial Coordination Council decided to urge the executive branch to call the 505 corregimiento representatives into special session as soon as possible to learn of the constitutional reforms by which the assembly would recover its legislative power in accordance with the proposals General Torrijos made to the Fifth National Newsmen's Congress in Santiago, Veraguas, a short time ago.

The resolution also states that Panama has the greatest confidence in the conduct of his government, and his leadership should be extended for the good of Panama's international prestige.

The resolution is signed by Alfredo Macharaviaya, Chiriqui governor, and Eliecer Patino, vice president of the corregimiento representatives assembly for Chiriqui Province.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED--Panama City, 4 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--New ambassadors from Costa Rica, the Federal Republic of Germany and Portugal presented their credentials to President Demetrio Basilio Lakas today. The new ambassadors are: Humberto Migro Borbon, Costa Rica; Peter Lors, Federal Republic of Germany; and Amario Mouraon de Mendoca, Portugal. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1558 GMT 4 Apr 78 PA]

BANANAS TO YUGOSLAVIA--Panama City, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Panama and Yugoslavia renewed an agreement for the sale of bananas. Official sources announced today that the amount set for 1978 is 14,000 tons. Yugoslavia will pay $278 per ton, that is, $14 above the previous price. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1431 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA]

EL SALVADOR

SECURITY CORPS REMAIN ON ALERT FOR DISORDERS

PA121953Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1720 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Salvadoran rural and urban security corps continue on the alert to prevent disorders which may affect the conduct of ordinary business, industry and private and government education activities. The situation remains the same as yesterday when the San Salvador Cathedral and the Venezuelan and Panamanian embassies were seized by almost 200 peasants of the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation and the Farm Workers Union to protest the government's measures in the countryside.

GUATEMALA

MUNICIPAL WORKERS STRIKE FOR WAGE INCREASES

PA121738Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1455 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Municipal workers in Guatemala City went on strike today because they are not receiving paid wage increases in the amounts set by the central government in March. The municipal strike began at 0700 (1300 GMT) and will last for an indefinite period, according to a resolution reached during a tumultous meeting last night in which the leaders of the Municipal Workers Union were accused of "betrayal of the proletarian cause." The union leaders were charged with being "allies of the mayor" because they had tried to prevent the strike on the grounds that "the path of dialog has not been exhausted."

The strike, which was approved by the municipal workers emergency committee, is supported by most of the workers, as well as by government workers who won the across-the-board increase after a strike paralyzed government activity in late February and early March.

The government workers support the strike to the extent that they would again paralyze all civil service activity. They are united in their demand for the wage increase and greater control of prices by the government.

The municipality maintains that it does not have the funds to grant the increase. In addition it is asking the workers to present their demands to the new municipal government which will come into office on 15 June.

City Hall Occupied, Offices Closed

PA121950Y Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The municipal workers emergency committee yesterday practically took over the municipality building by force to exert pressure to obtain salary increases.

The workers' decision does not have the support of the powerful Municipal Workers Union. The occupation occurred after a general assembly held yesterday afternoon.

The municipal workers action has practically paralyzed the city's operations as civil offices did not open today.

HONDURAS

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR EL SALVADOR MINISTERIAL MEETING

PA122319Y Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Excerpts] A Honduran delegation led by Education Vice Minister Jaime Martinez left yesterday for San Salvador to attend a preparatory meeting for the Central American conference of education ministers to be held in San Salvador from 14 to 16 April. The Honduran delegation will participate in the deliberations of the multilateral technical commission which will review various educational projects for the ministers' consideration. Honduras will propose a draft for basic education at a regional level to raise the people's cultural level through education.

UNITED BRANDS ACKNOWLEDGES ILLEGAL PAYMENTS

PA122339Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--A portion of a confidential document on United Brands payments published by a local paper today indicated that the company acknowledges that many of its payments to military personnel and government officials in the countries where it operates have been illegal.

In today's edition the newspaper LA TRIBUNA publishes a report prepared by executives of the transnational company who investigated a reported bribery of Honduran officials by the company in 1974. The report also admits that the payments consisted of over $215,000 a year.

The United Brands investigatory committee also found that payments by the company's subsidiaries fell into three categories. One concerned gifts and favors of minor extent and value to government officials listed as expenses with no expectation of getting something in return. In other cases relatively small cash payments were made to lower- and middle-echelon officials to obtain prompt fulfillment of their duties. In such cases the company obtained no benefits other than those which it would have received if the recipients had done their duty. Finally, the company has paid varying amounts to government officials to insure special services which the company would not normally have received.

The investigatory committee concluded that none of the transactions carried out by United Brands through its worldwide subsidiaries can be interpreted as being related to the company's business or its financial conditions. [sentence as received] The first part of the report which LA TRIBUNA published yesterday states that the banana company's payments are designed to cut red tape and avoid losses when fruit is loaded and unloaded.

The publication of this confidential report followed a major scandal which occurred last week after a local newsman reported on payments of over $32,000 which the Standard Fruit Company, the other U.S. banana company that operates in Honduras, has been making to officials, newsmen and military personnel in this country.

NICARAGUA

SOMOZA LEAVES FOR EL SALVADOR, TO MEET HUMBERTO ROMERO

PA122334Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2309 GMT 12 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 12 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle today left for a brief visit to San Salvador at the invitation of his Salvadoran colleague Gen Carlos Humberto Romero. The two chiefs of state will discuss various topics of common interest related to the coming Central American summit, relations within the Central American Common Market and the Honduran-Salvadoran conflict which is on its way to being settled.

President Somoza will return to Managua in the afternoon, according to a communique released by the information and press office of the presidency of the republic.

CONSERVATIVE BLOC WALKS OUT OF SENATE HALL

PA121938Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2247 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 11 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--As had been forecast, senators belonging to the Nicaraguan Conservative Party (minority opposition) today left the congressional meeting hall so as not to take the blame for approving the bill on partial amendments to the constitution. The Conservatives left that responsibility "solely" and "entirely" to the senators belonging to the Nationalist Liberal Party (in power).

Before leaving the meeting hall, opposition Senator Raul Arana Montalvan read a long document endorsed by all the political parties opposed to Gen Anastasio Somoza's administration. In the document, the opposition turned down the constitutional amendments proposed by President Somoza on 3 March with the intention "of facilitating a democratic political opening in Nicaragua." The opposition emphasized that "90 percent of the Nicaraguan people reject the amendments because they do not satisfy the people's aspirations and also because the prerequisites to achieve national democratization are incompatible with Gen Anastasio Somoza's tenure in office."

After reading the opposition's pronouncement, Senator Arana Montalvan invited his fellow party members to depart the Senate hall and leave the Liberal senators by themselves.

The (official) Liberal bloc was visibly upset at the attitude of the Conservative Party, the only legally recognized opposition group. Speaking for the official party, Ramiro Granera attacked the Conservatives, forecasting that this party "will disappear from the country's political scene."

"If anybody has contributed to what is known as the Somoza dynasty, it is certainly the Conservatives who throughout history have signed political pacts precisely to keep a Somoza in power," Granera Padilla said.

In the end the Liberal senators approved the bill and the idea of amending about 30 articles of the constitution, which has been in effect since May 1975.

A congressional plenum will meet here within the next few days to give its final approval to the constitutional amendments. It remains for another meeting of the legislature to approve the constitutional changes proposed, explained, discussed and approved unilaterally by the Liberals for enactment into law.

FURTHER ON CASTRO'S TOUR OF INDUSTRIAL SITES

FL122235Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Excerpts] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has toured several industrial projects under construction. In the different sites Fidel chatted extensively with workers and leaders and discussed the measures needed to accelerate the completion and start of operations at the projects.

The PCC first secretary also toured principal industrial projects under construction in Cienfuegos. In his talks with workers and leaders of the party and the different enterprises and organizations, Fidel stressed various aspects dealing with harvest activities and efforts needed in the current sugar industry struggle. He visited a wheat mill, a factory of components for aspersion irrigation systems and a new thermoelectric powerplant. He also visited the site of the cement plant in (Guabairo), near the road to Cumanayagua. At the Espartaco sugar mill, he asked about operations because of the high yields and good industrial efficiency it has been reporting the current harvest.

The commander in chief later traveled to Villa Clara Province where he toured the expansion work of the Fabrik Aguilar Noriega machine shop in Santa Clara, the boiler factory being built in Sagua la Grande and the 9 April foundry, whose expansion has been completed. He also visited the Perucho Figueredo sugar mill, the Torula factory under construction near the mill, and the Juan Manuel Marquez primary school, which has a capacity for 160 students and which he had promised its teachers to help build in a visit he paid in 1977.

At all places visited in the tour, Fidel stressed the need for accelerating the completion of the new industries and for insuring the fulfillment of the current harvest's goals. Fidel pointed out that this ongoing plan for industrial projects is the country's most important program at the present time.

Remarks at Varona Foundry

FL121331Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Excerpts of remarks by PCC First Secretary Fidel Castro at 11 April inauguration of Varona foundry in Havana City Province--recorded]

[Text] But this plant opens up a perspective because they can already build some parts for export there, and they have shown us a path of possible new plants of this type for the future. Because these completed parts are worth a lot, they have a very high price. Starting with our raw materials, fundamentally nickel, in the future we will be able to become exporters of manufactured parts for chemical and foodstuffs industries in other countries.

These plants are expensive. The equipment for this installation cost over $4 million. But one has to visualize what these finished parts are worth. The value of this investment is recovered within a couple of years, so we exhort the workers of this unit to think about exporting, to see how we importers of stainless steel parts are becoming exporters of stainless steel parts.

In the future we will be able to build plants, one or two or more, or some plants bigger than this one. But this is the one which will give us the experience, the one which will open the path for us, the one which will teach us to search for markets for its products. This will resolve many of the important problems for the country. In addition it opens a path for exports for us which is also very important. The plant has been delivered and the construction workers have been justly congratulated.

We observe that the construction workers' spirit, their organization, their efficiency are rising day by day. In the capitalistic era there was not a single industrial construction brigade in Cuba. When a plant was to be built, an American company had to come to build it. Now we have dozens and dozens of brigades and numerous enterprises throughout the country which are building complex, intricate industries.

We recently visited the cement plant under construction in Mariel, which will have a capacity of 1.4 million tons. It is a complex, intricate plant. It is truly heroic task that the workers have to complete. Some of them have to work at 60 meters, at 80 meters, and there are some objects which are up to 100 meters high. And up there on the cranes, sometimes they are working higher than the crane can reach so that a piece will fit. And sometimes they work up there with winds of 40 km and 50 km, and sometimes, when there is a strong northerly wind, they find themselves facing winds of 80 or 90 km, which move the several-ton pieces, as the workers there say, as if they were toys. And the workers have to take the pieces up there and go up. And there are times when the wind does not let them work.

It is truly admirable how we already have workers so well trained, so well qualified, so consciencious, so revolutionary that they can start and complete projects as difficult as this one.

RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, FLAVIO BRAVO MEET BULGARIAN MINISTER

FL121624Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1422 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, PCC Politburo member and vice president of the Council of State and Council of Ministers, has met in Havana with Bulgarian Machine Building Minister Toncho Chakurov. At the friendly meeting they exchanged viewpoints on scientific and technical cooperation between Cuba and Bulgaria, especially in the field of machine building.

Chakurov, member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee, also met with Flavio Bravo, PCC Central Committee and Council of State member and Council of Ministers vice president. At the meeting discussions were held on bilateral cooperation in the field of machine building and plans undertaken in this field.

HUNGARIAN INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS SANTIAGO DE CUBA

FL122323Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2255 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Andras Benkei, member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee and minister of the interior, has arrived in Santiago de Cuba, heading a delegation of that fraternal country.

The Hungarian delegation arrived in Santiago de Cuba accompanied by Division Gen Sergio del Valle, member of the PCC Politburo and Cuban minister of the interior. At Jose Marti International Airport of Santiago de Cuba, the visitors were received by Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the province. During the stay in Santiago de Cuba, Andras Benkei and his delegation will visit the Siboney farm, the former Moncada barracks and the Museum of the Clandestine Movement.

GDR PRESS OFFICIAL CONFERS WITH LEADERS

1st Deputy Foreign Minister

FL121744Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] First Deputy Foreign Minister Rene Anillo Capote has received Wolfgang Meyer, press chief of the GDR Foreign Ministry. Present at the meeting were GDR Ambassador to Cuba His Excellency Heinz Langer and Lisandro Otero, director of press, information and cultural relations of the Cuban Foreign Ministry--MINREX. The meeting was held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere.

Central Committee Department Chief

FL122342Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2302 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Orlando Fundora, chief of the PCC Central Committee Revolutionary Orientation Department, today met with Wolfgang Meyer, director of press and information of the GDR Foreign Ministry. Participating in the talks were (Henri Marx), first secretary of the GDR Embassy in Cuba, and Lazara Rodriguez Aleman, press chief of the Revolutionary Orientation Department, among other leaders. During the talks, which were held in a very cordial atmosphere, the two sides exchanged experiences on agitation and propaganda work of their countries and discussed different aspects of cooperation.

HAVANA CITES ANGOLA MINISTER'S REMARKS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA

PA121812Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Apr 78 PA

[Text] Angolan Foreign Minister Paulo Jorge has said in Maputo, Mozambique, that intensification of armed struggle in Namibia is the proper way to achieve the independence of that African country. The minister said that during his stay in Mozambique he will discuss the situation in the southern part of the continent with local officials. In addition he expressed his country's support for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front and its rejection of the so-called Rhodesian internal settlement sponsored by Ian Smith's regime.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER TOURS GUANTANAMO PROVINCE

FL122105Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 12 Apr 78 FL

[Text] Pedro Guelmes Gonzalez, minister of communications and member of the PCC Central Committee, has conducted an extensive tour of Guantanamo Province where he visited ongoing construction projects for improving communications. The communications minister visited installations of a modern telephone center at San Antonio del Sur, east of Guantanamo City. During his visit to the center, Minister Guelmes Gonzalez observed construction work on the new telephone line between San Antonio del Sur and Guantanamo as well as the telegraph station. The minister also asked about the quality of reception at provincial television stations which, he said at the end of his visit, was good.

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